



SPEED FEARS ON RAT-RUN ROAD

Report by David Callaghan

STOP our street being used as a rat run by speeding cars – that's the call from worried residents in Halesowen, amid concerns over the safety of schoolchildren.

People living in Howley Grange Road say the route is regularly being used as a short-cut by motorists to get to and from Bartley Green.

There have been crashes recently, raising concerns because the road is also a route to Howley Grange Primary School, which has around 300 pupils. There are also shops and a doctor's surgery nearby.

Residents are now urging Dudley Council to consider new road safety measures to reduce the volume of traffic and the amount of speeding in the area, as part of the Safer Routes to School Programme.

It comes after Dudley Council put safety measures in place on nearby Priory Road, which some residents claim has less traffic than busy Howley Grange Road.

The council has revealed that it is considering options for the road, including the possibility of a 20mph speed limit.

Jenny Clulow, of Howley Grange Road, said: "Drivers use it as a cut through to get to Bartley Green. We've also seen increased congestion and cars bombing down here."

Upset

"I am very upset and angry that Priory Road, which is a small, narrow road, has had so much done recently to slow the traffic down. Howley Grange Road, which is wider, has a bigger school and is around 10 times longer."

"We believe it needs something very similar, such as a pedestrian crossing, as just in the last two weeks we have had a serious accident."

"Traffic had to be diverted for around three hours while the cars were removed."

She added: "On any given day, it is like dicing with death."

Organisers at Howley Grange Wasps, an after school club, have also described the speed of the cars along the road as 'despicable'.

They help around 30 youngsters cross the busy road twice a day.

Dudley's Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said action would be taken.

The Halesowen North councillor said: "I'm pleased to see residents and parents taking such a passionate approach to safety on our streets."

"We will be looking at the potential for a 20mph zone and other safety measures near to Howley Grange Primary School as part of a future Safer Routes to School programme."

"All schools, across the whole borough, have been prioritised and officers are working to introduce the schemes as quickly as possible."

ROLL UP FOR WHEELY BOSTIN' NEW VIEW OF DUDLEY



Wheel's in motion – a view from the ferris wheel as the first passengers take a spin 115ft above Dudley town centre

UP, up and away – the latest addition to Dudley's skyline gives a bird's eye view of the town.

Just three months ago people jumped on board the 115ft high ferris wheel to get a spectacular view of Birmingham city centre.

But now the wheel has been brought to the Black Country with business bosses hoping it will boost visitors to the town.

The DY Eye took its first customers up in the sky after its grand launch on Saturday. It will remain in the town over the Easter period, up until April 10.

Residents queued to get their first trip on the big wheel in Stone Street Square after the official opening by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho.

Officials say its arrival is the 'catalyst' to showcase the transformation of the town centre in recent months.

They are keen to welcome more visitors following major projects such as the £6.7 million revamp of the market place and £1m revamp of Coronation Gardens.

The recently formed Dudley Business Group has brought together traders and en-

trepreneurs to work on the project to boost the town's profile.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said it was a major way to market newly-revamped Dudley to tourists and shoppers.

"It is a bostin' initiative," he said. "This is another stage of the regeneration of Dudley. You've seen the market place investment, Coronation Gardens, the new lighting of buildings in the town."

"Now we have the DY Eye. This is the first time the wheel has ever come to the Black Country."

HOUSING

45,000 homes in garden city project

A £6 BILLION plan has been unveiled to turn the Black Country into Britain's biggest 'garden city' by building 45,000 homes.

Civic and business leaders are at an international property exhibition in Cannes in a bid to win investment for the plans.

The huge project would see the Garden City built around Wolverhampton, extending to Lye and Dudley Port, West Bromwich and Aldridge. Homes would be built with open spaces and greenery in mind.

Construction would carry on for a decade in one of Britain's biggest brownfield site regeneration schemes.

PLANNING

30-metre tall mast is given green light

A 30-metre mast is to be put up in Halesowen, despite councillors raising concerns about its impact on the surrounding area.

The structure will be erected at an electrical distribution centre on the A458 Earls Way.

A similar application was refused two years ago for being 'highly conspicuous and prominent'. However, the plan has been given the go-ahead now the applicant has moved it by 10 metres. No health concerns had been raised.

ENTERPRISE

Bid to create special zone business boost

A BID to secure Government backing for a new enterprise zone in the Black Country is gathering pace.

Proposals have been tabled to bring in the zone too boost The Waterfront and Harts Hill areas of Brierley Hill.

Dudley Council and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership are now working together on the plans. Proposals were first mooted in 2011 but shelved in favour of Darlaston and Wolverhampton's i54.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood says he has been lobbying for the enterprise zone and has held talks with intu, owners of the Merry Hill shopping centre.

INSIDE

FLAG WILL FLY FOR FESTIVAL



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Hospital parking charges set to rise

PARKING charges at Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis hospitals will rise by up to 16 per cent from next month, under new plans.

Hospital bosses are considering four options ranging from a 10p increase to a 30p increase per time slot at the Sandwell and City sites. While options for increases at Rowley Regis range from 20p to 40p.

Residents will be given the chance to have their say on the proposals before a final decision is made.

Healthwatch Sandwell, which holds the hospital trust to account, said that it was 'disappointed' by the plans.

But chief nurse Colin Ovington said the decision to raise charges followed the trust having additional maintenance and security charges for its car parks.

If the smallest increase of 10p is introduced at Sandwell and City hospitals, it will see charges rise to £2.70 to park for an hour, £3.70 for two hours, £4.20 for three hours and £4.70 for four hours.

A 24-hour stay will cost £5.20. If the largest increase of 30p is approved the fees will rise to £2.90 for an hour, £3.90 for two hours, £4.40 for three hours, £4.90 for four hours and £5.40 for 24 hours. The increases range from one to 11 per cent.

While at Rowley Regis the smallest increase of 20p will see fees rise to £2.70 for six hours and £5.20 for up to 24 hours. The largest increase of 40p will see fees rise to £2.90 for six hours and £5.40 for 24 hours. These are rises of between six and 16 per cent.

Mr Ovington said: "Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust has the cheapest car parking charges across all Birmingham hospital trusts and we aim to maintain that position."

"With increases in rent charges for some areas of our car parks and additional maintenance and security charges, we will have to increase our parking charges slightly."

Men who ran £500k drug factory are jailed

TWO men who ran cannabis factories, including three houses in Halesowen, have been jailed after a national investigation.

Oliver Ngo and Thang Le were caught after they were linked to illegal drug production during the crack-down.

West Midlands Police found cannabis with a street value of £500,000 at a factory on their patch. The convictions come after a joint investigation by West Midlands Police and the National Crime Agency.

The men were spotted going in and out of a property in the Cresswell area of Derbyshire last July. It was later raided leading to the discovery of almost 1,000 plants, Birmingham Crown Court heard.

Officers also found a mobile phone inside which contained details of addresses in Long Lane, Halesowen. Officers discovered a cannabis factory in three houses there in March last year. The mobile phone also included details of the home address of Le.

Hidden

When Le's house was searched, £13,000 and one kilogram of cannabis was found hidden behind a bath panel.

Ngo, aged 26, of Grove Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham, was sentenced to six years in prison for producing cannabis. He was given an 18-month concurrent sentence for possession of criminal property.

Ngo was already on licence for a previous offence of possession with intent to supply cannabis.

Le, 40, from Chiswell Road, Winson Green, was sentenced to three years in jail for producing cannabis and an 18-month concurrent sentence for possession of criminal property.

They had both pleaded guilty to all the charges.

Detective Constable Thomas Frenchum, who led the investigation, said: "I am pleased that they will have a considerable amount of time in prison to think about their actions."

"Perhaps the most satisfying thing to come out of this case is that we have taken over £500,000 worth of cannabis off the streets of the West Midlands. This also sends a message to others who produce and sell illegal drugs - we will find you and bring you to justice."

Flying the flag for celebrations



Paul Palmer, of Black Country T-Shirts, Council leader Pete Lowe and Steve Edwards, of the Black Country Festival

IT is the self-professed capital of the Black Country - and now a new flag is being proudly flown at Dudley.

A new Black Country flag will flutter proudly in the lead up to this year's Black Country Festival thanks to a donation.

Officials said the old Black Country flag flown from Dudley Town Hall had become worn after 12 months of 'marking the capital of the Black Country'.

But Black Country T-Shirts, now based in Dudley town centre, stepped forward to donate a new one ready for the festival in July.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "The Black Country Festival is the biggest event in the borough's calendar."

Region

"It is an opportunity for us all to celebrate everything that is fantastic about this region."

"We're really grateful to Black Country T-Shirts for the flag, which will fly proudly from the roof of Dudley Town Hall in the lead up to what I am sure will be another bostin' month of celebrations."

Black Country T-Shirts moved to Castle Street, Dudley, in December last year and sells Black Country themed clothing and other items.

Paul Palmer from the shop joined Councillor Lowe and Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival organising committee, to unfurl the flag that is to be flown from Dudley Town Hall.

Prayer hall goes ahead after appeal is a success

PLANS for a new Muslim prayer hall and community centre in Old Hill will go ahead after an appeal against its rejection by Sandwell Council was granted by the Planning Inspectorate.

Proposals to turn a former Sunday school and church building into the Islamic centre had twice been rejected by council planners. But the decision was overturned after an appeal by the Old Hill Masjid and Community Centre.

More than 145 objections had been lodged to the second application and it had been refused due to concerns about parking.

The site next to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, off Halesowen Road, will now be revamped.

Ward councillor John Tipper said he was disappointed the Planning Inspectorate had overruled the council's decision. He said: "It's not particularly helpful that the Inspectorate, which is based in Bristol, overruled the local decision of Sandwell's planning committee. There's not a great deal the council can do."

"I only hope we will explore all avenues to address the parking issues. I'm not against anybody's right to worship. Maybe there's ways we can work together."

Members of the Old Hill Masjid and Community Centre Association resubmitted the planning application after it was rejected in 2013. It was rejected then over a 'shortfall' in the number of car parking spaces available during the busy period for Friday prayers.

Teenager hurt in road accident

A 16-year-old girl suffered a head injury when she was hit by a car in Stourbridge on Tuesday morning.

Paramedics said the girl's injury was potentially serious and she had been unconscious for a short time before being airlifted to hospital in Birmingham.

The woman driver was left shaken and taken to Russells Hall Hospital as a precaution after the accident, which happened on Hodge Hill Avenue in Wolliscote at around 8am.

Ambulance service spokesman Murray MacGregor said the girl had started to come round while ambulance staff were treating her.

He added: "After assessment, she was airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. She had also been immobilised. The car had considerable damage."

OSH creating new sixth form centre

A LANDMARK school has revealed plans to create a new sixth form block transforming an historic building.

Old Swinford Hospital school, Stourbridge, is to revamp the oldest boarding house - Foster - at the prestigious school off Heath Lane by September.

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Decision is deferred for regulations on taxi tints

A PLAN to enforce the removal of heavily tinted windows from taxis in Dudley has been deferred after pleas for a rethink from cabbies.

Taxi drivers said they were being forced to fork out hundreds of pounds to have cab windows replaced. They claimed many newer cars had factory-fitted tints and Dudley Council's policy needed revision.

There is a rule that at least 40 per cent of light must be able to travel through back windows of Hackney carriages and private hire taxis in order to be granted a licence by Dudley Council.

Officials said the rules helped passenger safety in the light of a child sexual exploitation review, following incidents elsewhere in the country.

The policy was set to be retained by the council's taxi committee with a condition giving cabbies three months in which to have windows changed before any sanctions were imposed.

But the committee, which met last week, decided to defer this decision. Councillors wanted to see examples of tinted windows before ruling on the issue.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman, Shaz Saleem, said: "We welcome the council going back and investigate this again. There will be older cars on the roads if this policy is enforced. Drivers have been able to bring in better cars."

He said association members had shown evidence that there had been no crimes relating to tinted windows in the borough.

Motorist admits injuring girl, 15

A CAR valeting has admitted causing serious injury to a 15-year-old Stourbridge schoolgirl by dangerous driving.

Claudia Visser, a pupil at Redhill School, was badly hurt when struck by a car as she crossed Grange Road, Pedmore, on December 17.

She remained in a coma for several days and suffered two broken legs, bleeding on the brain, a fractured skull and internal injuries.

Adnan Ajram, aged 24 from Careless Green, Lye, pleaded guilty to causing her serious injury by dangerous driving when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

He was remanded in custody to allow the preparation of a pre-sentence report until April 1.

Cakes and crafts shows at the NEC

FOUR shows are coming together at Birmingham's NEC. Sewing for Pleasure, Hobby Crafts and Fashion and Embroidery are running from today (Thursday) to Sunday, with Cake International Friday to Sunday.

Merry Hill Metro line is back on track

MULTI-MILLION plans reviving the Midland Metro extension to Dudley, Merry Hill and Brierley Hill have been bolstered after new funding was agreed.

Senior councillors have agreed to plough £100,000 into the scheme to bring the proposal up to date to finally get it off the ground. Officials have warned 'work needs to start in earnest' to present revised plans or potential funding could be lost.

Plans to extend the Metro from Wednesbury had been dogged by delays after successive governments failed to commit funding. But Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe says a £1 billion funding package agreed with Chancellor George Osborne can secure its future.

Councillor Lowe says council leaders are support-

ing the proposals through the new West Midlands Combined Authority.

The Black Country Executive Joint Committee has granted approval for £100,000 of funding to be put towards developing the scheme. The money will be spent on revamping plans and costings.

Update

Officials say work to update the proposals will gather pace during the new financial year.

Currently the Midland Metro links Wolverhampton with Birmingham city centre via Wednesbury and West Bromwich. The proposed scheme would run for around seven miles from the line at Wednesbury via Great Bridge, Horseley Heath, Dudley Port,

Dudley town centre, the Waterfront and Merry Hill, terminating in Brierley Hill town centre.

A report to the committee said: "Following the West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Deal announced by George Osborne on November 17, the Department for Transport (DfT) have provisionally allocated funding to the proposed East/West Metro link. The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro forms part of this wider scheme. The scheme has been identified as a priority for a number of years within the Black Country."

Councillor Lowe added: "A lot of the pre-preparatory work was done many years ago but of course the funding has never been available. Now we are making progress."

Inquiry after frightened carers' road rage ordeal

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched after police allegedly told a petrified group of carers they were 'too busy' to help them during a road rage incident.

Members of the Dudley Carers Forum were travelling back from a Birmingham theatre when they say the group's minivan was in a collision with a car in the city centre.

They allege the car's driver acted aggressively towards them and pursued them into the Black Country but when they called 999 they were told officers could not help as they were too busy.

The group drove to Halesowen police station only to find that it had permanently closed. The group then drove to Brierley Hill police station where they say they were kept waiting outside for more than half an hour following a 'nightmare' 10-mile journey. The region's police and crime commissioner (PCC) David Jamieson said their claims would be investigated.

The incident on January 23 has brought into focus the issue of police accessibility in the wake of front desk closures over the last 12 months.

Accessible

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, who campaigned in vain to keep the Laurel Lane station open, said: "It was obvious from the very beginning that incidents like this would happen following the closure of front desks. We warned the PCC at the time, but he did not listen. Instead he decided to announce the whole station would close.

"It is vitally important for the police to have a presence in Halesowen which is accessible to the public when incidents like this occur."

Councillor Bill Etheridge, a Sedgley councillor and Dudley's UKIP Euro MP, has called for Mr Jamieson to resign.

"We know there have been deep and damaging cuts to the police budget," said MEP Mr Etheridge. "But that budget is handled by the PCC, who has brought in a disgraceful station closure programme that has led us to the point where a group of vulnerable people on an outing cannot feel safe.

"It is time for Mr Jamieson to go and be replaced by someone who understands the first priority of policing should be public safety and not number crunching from behind a desk."

Last year more than 700 people signed a petition to save Halesowen police station, one of 28 in the area facing closure.

Mr Jamieson met with members of the Dudley Carers Forum, and said: "The concerns they have raised about the conduct of officers are being investigated thoroughly."



No haven – the carers were shocked to find that Halesowen police station had closed to the public

Prison for driver who had a knife

A STOURBRIDGE man who claimed a knife stashed in his car was used for fly-fishing has been jailed.

Matthew Cooper had failed to stop when initially spotted by a police officer on patrol, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

After Cooper initially failed to halt, the officer then searched the car and found the wooden-handled knife, which had a

14cm blade, between the driver and passenger seats.

Cooper, of Queensway, Pedmore, claimed he had the knife as he used it for his fly-fishing hobby.

Display

Ms Blondelle Thompson, defending, said: "In terms of the knife, he said it was used for

fly-fishing and it wasn't on open display."

But Mr Gary Cook, prosecuting, told the court that the 38-year-old had two convictions relating to knives.

Recorder Ben Nicholls said: "There is widespread concern about people who routinely carry knives." Cooper admitted possession of a bladed article and was jailed for six months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More than 100 homes proposed

HOUSING on a derelict former hospital site in Wordsley looks set to go ahead, after the scheme was recommended for approval by planners today (Thursday).

Proposals for 129 homes in the Ridge Hill Hospital grounds were due to be given the green light at a development committee meeting last month but councillors opted to visit the site before making a final decision.

Officers have recommended the plans for approval, which are back on the agenda for today's meeting of Dudley Council planners.

Temple expansion set for green light

THE expansion of a huge temple complex in Tividale has been recommended for approval by planners.

Proposals for the 21-acre Balaji Temple – the biggest in Europe – now look set to be given the green light by Sandwell Council.

These set out a scheme to construct a 15-metre tall building to house a giant festival chariot, and to build a processional route around the site off Dudley Road East. It will provide facilities to hold the Hindu festival Ratha Yatra. The three-storey high chariot is due to be unveiled in August.

Brewery ready to open latest pub

A BLACK Country brewery is opening its latest pub in Halesowen next Thursday, March 24, at noon.

The Waggon and Horses in Stourbridge Road was bought shortly before Christmas by Pensnett-based Black Country Ales.

The pub, which dates back to 1830, has since been fully refurbished.

It is Black Country Ales' 34th outlet and will serve beers brewed at its own brewery in Lower Gornal and guest real ales.

Drama students show their skills at college

DUDLEY students lit up the stage at Halesowen College when they performed a Shakespeare classic.

Pupils from The Brier, Cherry Tree and Ridgewood Schools performed Macbeth for friends, family and teachers.

The group have been studying drama at the college since September.

Natalie Guest, drama lecturer, said: "This is a regular partnership with the schools and the college which has been going for five years."

Carnival help needed

ORGANISERS of Halesowen's family carnival are looking for more sponsors and entertainers to tack back the revived community event. The carnival on July 2 in Highfield Parkwill feature the Jorvik Vikings group and a dog show. Call carnival chairman Stuart Henley on 07967 147367.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



MORE things misheard. A reader swears her father-in-law came out of hospital having had a sirloin drip. On hearing the above, another reader asked: "Are you sure it was a sirloin drip? Might it have been a saline drip?"

MOST memorable TV quote of the week came from Delia's Welsh mother, beginning to suspect her daughter is a lesbian, in Call the Midwife (BBC1): "I am not an unsophisticated woman. I have been to Jersey."

SHOCK, horror! The Daily Mail reveals that when the debate on gay marriage began, the Queen was against it. So how many 88-year-old people were in favour?

I HAVE no idea whether the Queen wants us in or out of the EU. But there is the issue of her dignity. Under UK law we are subjects, she is the monarch and her title is "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith." Under EU law we are all equal citizens and her title, for voting purposes, is "Mrs E Windsor."



JOHN Longworth was forced to resign as director of the British Chambers of Commerce for supporting Britain quitting the EU. This allegedly compromised the BCC's neutral stance on the issue. So what if Longworth had spoken in favour of staying in the EU? Do you suspect for a moment that anyone would have batted an eyelid? Of course not. If you support the EU you may shout it from the rooftops. If you say it's time to quit, wait for the knock at the door. Hang on. I hear a knock . . .

I MUST have missed something in the report about a Scottish boy being stabbed to death in his school. The court heard that his 16-year-old killer frequently brought knives and other weapons into school and staff had spoken to him "once or twice." And that's it? Why did nobody tell the police that he was in possession of an offensive weapon and let the law take its course?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Crash for cash gang tried to make £30k

FIVE members of a 'crash for cash' gang who took part in a £30,000 insurance scam have been handed suspended jail terms.

Magsood Ahmed, 38, from Halesowen, tried to fleece his insurer, RSA, when he contacted them to report that he had been involved in a crash driving his Citroen C4 in Lea Hall Road, Birmingham.

London's Old Bailey heard he claimed that he was driving when he bent down to pick up a phone that had been dropped by a passenger, lost control and hit a parked Mercedes C63 AMG.

By Richard Guttridge

Mohammed Munir, 28, owner of the Mercedes, who was in on the plot, then reported the damage to RSA.

Passengers in Munir's car at the time of the collision, brothers Khalid and Kashif Mahmood, submitted personal injury claims totalling over £8,000. Naveed Mohammed used his company 'Road Accident Help' to charge excessive fees.

Examined

However, when RSA's engineers examined the cars, they noted that the damage to the vehicles was not consistent with the story given. The general condition of the Citroen, aside from the crash damage, was so bad that it was in their opinion not driveable.

When specialist police investigators seized the men's phones they found messages by Munir asking to find somebody willing to stage a collision and take the blame.

Detective Sergeant Matt Hussey, from the Insurance

Fraud Enforcement Department said: "This whole fraud began because Munir couldn't afford the finance payments on his Mercedes and he thought insurance fraud was an easy way out."

All five were charged with conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation with Munir also charged with money laundering. They pleaded guilty to all charges.

Ahmed, of Seven Acres Road, and Munir, of Bowyer Road, Birmingham, were each given a 10-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, with 200 hours unpaid work. Khalid Mahmood, 25 of Lea Hall Road, Birmingham, received a nine-month jail term, suspended for two years, with 160 hours of unpaid work. Kashif Mahmood, 23, of Lea Hall Road, Birmingham, and Mohammed, 25, of Bromfield Road, Birmingham, were each given a four-month sentence, suspended for two years and 80 hours unpaid work.

Mila on mend after attack



Friendly terrier Mila was kicked in the head by burglars

A FRIENDLY pet dog beaten by cruel burglars in Halesowen is on the mend after animal lovers joined forces via the internet to pay vets bills.

Brave Mila was beaten to within an inch of her life by the heartless thieves. She was left unable to walk and was found cowering in a bush after the terrier suffered a vicious beating after the crooks broke into her owner's home, eventually leaving empty-handed. The 18-month-old Bedlington terrier was repeatedly kicked in the head and was left with nerve damage.

But Mila is now on the mend and back with owner Julie Green after a JustGiving site set up to pay for her £1,500 vets bills smashed its target and raised a £6,624 in just a week.

Mrs Green said: "Mila is doing really well, her right leg is still weak but improving, and her left leg seems much stronger - she's walking around the house and garden. She still needs lots of rest but we are so happy that things seem to be going well. We are so grateful."

Money left over from the JustGiving donations will help other Bedlington terriers who need treatment.

Borough residents 'drowning' in debt

ONE in four people in Sandwell are drowning in debt according to a new report which has named the borough as England's debt hotspot.

According to findings by the Money Advice Service, a quarter of people in Sandwell - which works out to around 80,000 people - are struggling to keep on top of their bills.

As part of the study, people were classed as in debt if they had either fallen behind with their bills in at least three of the last six months, or were worried about the impact debt is having on their lives.

MP for Warley John Spellar believes the borough is suffering from the collapse of the manufacturing industry and the legacy of the recession which means many families were stuck in a 'debt cycle'. He also complained sky-high energy prices were hitting the poorest hardest.

The Labour MP said: "Until the economy properly picks up it will be difficult for people to get out of the debt cycle."

"You will often find with these studies where Sandwell is low down that it is actually very small percentage difference to those in the middle but essentially the shut down of so much manufacturing means Sandwell has suffered for a long time with unemployment. There is clearly significant problems."

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Investment is bringing firm export success

A BLACK Country manufacturer is continuing to build on seven consecutive years of growth in exporting after winning fresh investment last year.

Cube Precision Engineering, established in 2009, is now supplying leading manufacturers around the world with press tooling and sub-contract multi-axis machining from its headquarters at Cakemore Road, Rowley Regis.

From winning the Overseas Success award from Made In The Midlands in 2013, the company's export revenue in 2015 accounted for 46 per cent of its total revenue with most of that to European countries.

Joint managing director Neil Clifton explained: "The growth of our business has been on the back of investment in new machinery and building a dependable supply chain."

"We found our British customers were impressed with the communication they received from our staff at all levels, in turn, recommending us to their worldwide purchasing teams. We now export to five European countries and have experience with Indian and South Korean customers too."

The company employs 60 staff at two sites. This includes GFP Tools at Peartree Business Park, Dudley, which has made tools for Jaguar Land Rover, Aston Martin, Lamborghini, Ferrari and McLaren.

£100k grant to provide better home heating

NEARLY 100 Sandwell households are set to benefit from new or improved central heating systems thanks to a £100,000 grant.

The grant from National Energy Action is to be shared across two projects as part of a Sandwell Council drive to tackle fuel poverty, including new boilers and control systems.

Knife crime figures have risen by more than 100 in a year

Awards are given to NHS workers



Nicholas Owen, far right, with some health workers recognised by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

STAFF at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have been recognised for their dedication and commitment to patient care at their annual staff awards.

More than 300 staff gathered at The Venue in Dudley on March 3 for the awards ceremony hosted by former TV news reader and royal correspondent, Nicholas Owen.

He thanked the NHS personally for the care and treatment he received

when he was diagnosed with kidney cancer in 2002.

Individuals and teams based both in the hospital and out in the community who go the extra mile for their patients were presented with awards by Trust directors and senior members of staff.

The Trust took time out from the main awards to honour shift leader Hugh Davies who tragically died in a motorbike accident last year.

Staff joined new Chairman Jenni Ord in paying tribute to Hugh, ending with a standing ovation. In his memory, nominees who narrowly missed the award's shortlist were recognised and commended.

Rounding off the evening, Jenni Ord said: "It has been my privilege to share the evening with you and to learn about some of the fantastic services and staff commitment here at The Dudley Group."

THE number of people cautioned or sentenced over knife possession in the West Midlands has risen by more than 100 in one year, figures show.

Statistics reveal there were 987 knife possession offences resulting in warning or punishment for the year ending December 2015.

This is up from 870 from the year before – but down from 1,890 in 2008.

Figures for England and Wales overall also rose in one year with 17,361 people cautioned or sentenced after being caught in possession of a knife in 2015 compared to 16,261 during 2014.

Of these, 2,374 were cautioned, 686 fined, 4,425 received community sentences, 3,299 suspended prison sentences and 5,358 faced immediate custody.

There have been 3,000 knife crimes in Wolverhampton alone over the last 10 years, including the murder of factory worker Tom Kirwan, who was knifed to death outside the Uberta Club in Wolverhampton in July 2012.

A particularly shocking instance of knife crime was the death of schoolgirl Christina Edkins. The 16-year-old was fatally stabbed on a Birmingham bus while on her way to Leasowes High School in Halesowen in March 2013.

Campaign

West Midlands Police launched a campaign to tackle the levels of recorded knife crime.

The campaign, called 'Either way he's not coming home', appeals to mothers of young men to have a conversation with their sons about the dangers of carrying a knife.

It stresses that anyone carrying a knife in public runs the risk of being jailed, wounded, or killed. Hard-hitting posters show young men being arrested, a victim in an ambulance and a mother at her son's funeral.

Fuzzbox's ViX adds fizz to school project

PUPILS at a Rowley Regis special school have been inspired to write a song promoting equality after working with the lead singer of an 80s pop band.

ViX Perks, from the group Fuzzbox, has been working with youngsters from The Westminster School.

The school was chosen as a best practice school as part of the national 'educate and celebrate' programme.

The project equips and empowers school communities to tackle and reduce homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

Pupils were selected to take part in a number of song writing workshops with ViX, and compose a song raising awareness of the impact of bullying on the lives of others. The group also got the chance to record the song in a professional studio and produce a CD.

They performed the song at the Midlands Showcase event in at Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



So now the Met Office dictates the seasons

A FEW days ago, when we were being told to prepare for the coldest day of the year, and the early-morning frost was thick and cold, one of the weather forecasters on the radio commented that it seemed "more like spring than winter".

Well, there is good reason for this. For hundreds of years we have managed perfectly well using the Vernal Equinox, which usually falls around March 20-21, as the first day of spring. And then, a few years ago, the Met Office took it upon itself to move the date to March 1. On whose authority was this decision taken? Do you remember being consulted?

It seems the reason for the change was to make life a bit easier when it comes to recording data. Well, I'm sorry, the Met Office can record its data however it sees fit, but the weather forecasters have an overblown sense of their own importance if they think it falls to them to decide when our seasons start and end.

It would be almost as pompous as four local authorities taking it upon themselves to redefine the Black Country to suit their boundaries. Just as well that would never happen.

□□□

ON that subject, it wouldn't be March without our civic leaders heading to the South of France for the annual town-planning jamboree in Cannes. Funny it's never in Bilston, isn't it?

The latest plan is for a "Black Country Garden City", which sounds suspiciously like the 1960s New Town developments which brought us the unparalleled beauty of Skelmersdale and Milton Keynes.

Look, I'm all for transforming brown-field sites around the area to create much-needed housing. What I am less keen on is the idea of linking together 31 different and disparate communities to form a single "city", which will inevitably blur local identities, and possibly threaten our existing town centres which have taken enough of a kicking.

Could you imagine anyone merging Norwich and Ipswich together, to create an East Anglia Garden City? Or Newcastle, Durham and Sunderland? So why is it okay for us?

Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and West Bromwich are all big and important enough to stand on their own two feet, at least if the will is there from the people who make the big decisions.

Instead of dreaming about garden cities, our leaders should be straining every sinew to ensure our existing towns and cities can compete on an equal footing with other parts of the country. And fighting for each of their very distinct identities.

Apparently, the garden city idea came from a competition entry which also suggested rebranding Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell under a single identity – Albion. Yes. That would have gone down well on the South Bank...



The Dunn family pictured in the early 1990s, before tragedy struck



Five-year-old Charlotte Dunn was killed in Dunblane 20 years ago



Cradley C of E Primary School is launching Charlotte's award

‘We’ll never get over losing our daughter’

A little girl whose life was taken 20 year ago is remembered at a Black Country school, **DAVID COSGROVE reports**

‘WE lost a daughter and we will never recover from that’.

These are the heart-breaking words of Martyn Dunn, the father of a Black Country girl murdered in the Dunblane massacre 20 years ago.

As the nation remembers the 20th anniversary of the horrific shootings, the Cradley school where tragic young victim Charlotte Dunn once attended has now launched a prize in her memory.

Cradley C of E Primary School created the Charlotte Dunn Award after discussions with her parents. Charlotte, aged five, grew up in the Black Country and spent her reception year at Cradley C of E Primary before moving to Scotland with her family.

But just nine months later she was murdered alongside 15 other pupils and one teacher at Dunblane Primary School on March 13, 1996 when gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire.

Cradley headteacher Marcia Harris, who taught Charlotte in reception, said: "The award will be a character award and will be given to a child who exemplifies our school values."

Remember

Charlotte had penned a letter to her former classmates just weeks before her life was cruelly snuffed out. This said how Charlotte loved her new teacher Gwen Mayor, who also died, almost as much as she loved her reception teacher at Cradley Marcia Harris, who is now the school's head.

Mrs Harris spoke of Charlotte as a bubbly, bright girl who was full of promise. She said: "We've got a lot of memories of her from the year she was with us."

"I had the privilege of being her first teacher and just remember her being a shining little star – that's absolutely what she was. Char-



Charlotte's parents Barbara and Martyn, returned to Scotland to be close to other Dunblane parents

lotte was shy, beautiful, had lots of friends and was a clever little girl. At the time she loved The Lion King.

"I remember Martyn used to be working in Scotland and used to travel back. One Friday afternoon she brought her dad to meet me because he was home early and I can remember how excited she was."

"What happened had a huge impact on the community here."

The school still sends flowers annually to mark Charlotte's birthday and the anniversary of the massacre. Prayers are held at the school every year on March 13 to give thanks for Charlotte's life.

Mrs Harris said she has become close friends with Mr and Mrs Dunn and chose to name her own daughter Emily Charlotte to pay tribute to her former pupil.

The new award will be presented by Char-

lotte's parents Barbara and Martyn at the school's Easter church service on the last day of term, Thursday, March 24.

Mr Dunn, 55, said the award would both honour his daughter's memory and reward the efforts of current children.

He said: "Twenty-one years ago Marcia was Charlotte's teacher and after the events of Dunblane she was in touch and very upset that one of her past children had been taken away from the world."

"Since then we've kept in touch and she has become a very close friend. She always remembers Charlotte and sends flowers for birthdays and anniversaries."

"It's nice that Cradley Primary still continues to remember Charlotte 20 years later and when we visited the children all knew who we were – Charlotte's mum and dad. We wanted to present an award in honour of Charlotte

and to reward some of the children from the school."

Mrs Harris added: "This year Barbara and Martyn came to see me at Christmas and said they would like to fund a Charlotte Dunn award. Teachers will put pupils' names forward and it will be based on character."

Charlotte, aged five, moved to Scotland with her family from their home in Apperley Way, Cradley.

Mr Dunn said the family will never fully recover from Charlotte's death but are continuing to move along the grieving process.

"It's terrible, we lost a daughter and we will never fully recover from that."

However, out of the tragedy Mrs Dunn said he and his wife had forged new friendships, particularly with Pamela and Kenny Ross, whose five-year-old daughter Joanna was also killed.

They were the last two couples left in a waiting room at Dunblane Primary to find out about their children's fate. That shared experience forged a special bond between the parents.

Following the massacre, which saw its 20th anniversary on Sunday, Mr Dunn, his wife and son Alex returned to the Midlands from Dunblane to Kidderminster. But just a year later they moved back to the Stirlingshire town – where they still live – to take advantage of the comfort provided by being close to the other bereaved families.

Ex-Scout leader Thomas Hamilton, 43, first cut the school's telephone wires before making his way to the gym hall armed with four legally-held handguns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Inside the gym, 28 primary year one pupils were preparing for PE class as he entered and began shooting, killing 16 children and teacher Gwen Mayor and injuring 15 others. He then turned the gun on himself.

Dr Mick North, whose five-year-old daughter Sophie was killed, said the positive legacy should not be forgotten – that people are safer from gun crime. He said: "The 20th anniversary is a time when those too young to remember might learn about what happened and consider its significance. Handguns were banned – surely a legacy worth reflecting upon two decades later?"

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Immigration is key Euro issue

WATCHING young mothers talking to the media on TV about the in and out at Europe, most of them seemed to be coming down on the side of staying – the main concern being the economy.

I have to tell them that if the vote is staying in, their children will have difficulty finding a school place, the sick will find difficulty finding a hospital bed, the young who are looking for a home will find a home harder to obtain.

Also, the old will find it hard to find a

nursing home and everyone will find it harder to get a job.

That's because the overriding reason, above all else, to vote out is immigration. Staying in the European Union will mean our borders will still be open to hundreds of thousands from across Europe and beyond.

We buy more from Europe than they sell to us – and they will still want to sell to us.

J BROWN

Blackheath

Better off out of EU machine

THE latest pro-EU spin story is that if we leave the EU, France will no longer process migrants that end and they will be allowed to just cross the channel unimpeded? What nonsense!

Once we are out of Europe, the 'freedom of movement' legislation will no longer apply, so anyone wishing to travel here will have their passport checked on departure and on arrival.

If they do not have the relevant visas/paperwork they will be put on the first boat back.

We will no longer be forced to 'take a quota' of refugees as we will be out of the EU machine.

We currently haemorrhage £50m per day into Europe. On leaving we could reinvest just two per cent of that into our own border control (making our borders the most secure and best-funded in Europe) and we would still be £49m a day better off!

Leave the EU = No more need for cuts and austerity.

It's a 'no brainer'!

M WILKES

Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Tories vote to take £30 from disabled

I WAS brought up in the belief that politicians were meant to help and do good for people. How wrong I was!

I feel outraged that my Member of Parliament for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, James Morris, has just voted along with his Conservative Party to cut benefit to the disabled by £30 per week.

To get this miserable, evil act to become law the Tories, after being defeated twice in the House of Lords, forced it through claiming 'financial privilege' as the Commons have the final say on budgetary measures.

To pick upon the most vulnerable in society like this is, to me, despicable, but sadly firmly in line with

Tory philosophy of hammering the most vulnerable.

Mr Morris, who started a petition in a bid to stop closure of the police station, seems to be under the illusion that cuts have nothing to do with him when they are in his own area. However, we see the real James Morris as he votes for cuts to the disabled. It takes my breath away. It wasn't so long ago, in July 2015 that MPs took a £7,000 pay rise and here they are now taking £30 pounds from disabled people.

Nye Bevan, the founder of the National Health Service, famously said: "So far as I am concerned Tories are lower than vermin."

C STOLL

Halesowen

First beggar in our village

I HAVE lived in Coseley for a few years and I love it.

I go into Roseville daily to do my bit of shopping as I like to support my local shops.

On my visit there today, I parked the car up, got my veg and proceeded to walk down the street to get other items of shopping.

What I saw shocked me – a beggar sat in the street who asked me for money, I could not believe it, I have never seen this before in our little village.

I have seen this in Wolverhampton and Birmingham – they are cities and you unfortunately expect it. But Roseville! It cut me to the core.

I empathize with people who are perhaps homeless. But where are the community police officers that I used to see regularly? We do not need this.

D WOOD

Coseley

'Mom' still the word for me

SOME years ago I was at a writers' weekend in Sussex with editors of a magazine I had been contributing to.

Each writer had to write a story to be discussed.

The only criticism my story had was that I had called my main character 'mom'.

It was even suggested that I had done this deliberately to draw the attention of the editors of the American edition, who were also present.

Well, it's always been 'mom' in my family and every other family I have known. 'Mom's the word'.

O HYETT

Dudley

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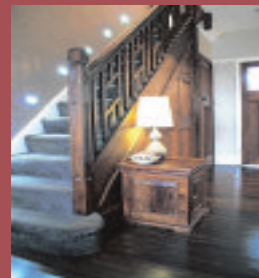
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The junction with the Birmingham Canal Navigations at Aldersley



Narrowboats at the Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge



The Railway Bridge over the canal at Tettenhall



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Staffs & Worcs canal at Compton about 100 years ago

Lock where first earth was dug for canal link

IN 1766, exactly 250 years ago, a spade was thrust into the ground at Compton, and construction of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal began.

The Act of Parliament authorising this important link between the East coast via the River Trent, and the West coast via the River Severn, was passed on May 14, 1766, and work began soon after.

The first earth was dug at Compton lock, on what is the highest level of the canal.

The overall supervisor of the canal was James Brindley, who had built the Duke of Bridgewater's canal in Lancashire, and was also constructing the Trent & Mersey Canal.

Brindley was born in 1716, near Leek, and thus this year is the 300th anniversary of his

MEMORY LANE

birth. The actual construction of the canal was given to one of Brindley's pupil assistants, Thomas Dadford, who had been born near Stourton but was living in Wolverhampton at the time.

He and his sons went on to become major canal engineers in their own right.

The canal opened in 1772, as did the Birmingham Canal Navigations, which linked with it at Aldersley, rising through 21 locks to the centre of the City and onwards throughout the Black Country and Birmingham.

For the first time the coal and iron products of the region could be exported in bulk throughout the country, and

the world, and the industrial revolution was facilitated.

The canal reached the River Severn at Stourport, and at its other end joined the Trent & Mersey Canal at Great Heywood. Soon afterwards the Shropshire Union Canal to the North West also linked with the Staffs & Worcs, at Autherley Junction, half a mile from Aldersley and an important waterways crossroads was created.

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre, which sits only yards from the canal is planning an exhibition to celebrate the 250th anniversary and is seeking to borrow any related artefacts to add to its own small collection.

Open every Sunday, the Heritage Centre offers a free map for a self guided walk around the adjacent historic sites.



James Brindley who was canal pioneer

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Driver in tragic crash 'must have dozed off'

A POSTMAN who caused the death of a father-of-eight by careless driving must have dozed off at the wheel before the crash, a court heard.

Sajid Hussain, aged 36, from Black-acre Road, Dudley, was at the wheel of a red Volkswagen Polo that struck 47-year-old David Hinton as he was putting one of his children into his green Peugeot 206 on a Dudley street.

Hussain had not eaten for ten and a half hours as he had been observing Ramadan.

The accident happened at Oakham Road, near to its junction with Tansley Hill Road, on June 20 last year. Mr Hinton, from Halesowen, died in hospital the following day. Mr Hinton's children and 34-year-old wife Nadine were treated for minor injuries.

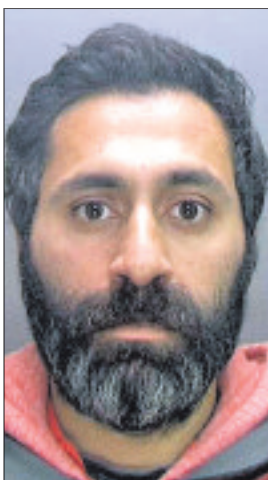
Hussain at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week was handed an eight-month jail term suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work. He was banned from driving for three years and will face an extended re-test before he can get behind the wheel again.

Mr Simon Ward, prosecuting, said that 'the only conclusion' for Hussain veering into Mr Hinton's parked car at around 2pm was 'that he must have dozed off'. His vehicle was travelling around the 30mph speed limit.

A personal statement from Mrs Hinton, read out in court, stated that 'the children are struggling to come to terms with the loss of their father'.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said Hussain was a 'respectable, hard-working, law-abiding man', adding: "He doesn't remember feeling tired. He is absolutely horrified at what he has done."

The court heard Hussain had not eaten any food since 3.30am on the day of the crash. A medical examination found no abnormalities which would have explained him blacking out.



Sajid Hussain 'horrified' by the tragedy



Halesowen father-of-eight David Hinton

Man died after fall in Qatar

A BUILDER from Kingswinford died after falling from a first-floor window of an apartment in Qatar.

David Allport, aged 57, of Larch Road, had been working in the Middle Eastern country. He was in a coma for six weeks, and looked to be improving but then he suffered internal bleeding. His life support machine was switched off when it became apparent there more could be done to save him.

David Reid, assistant coroner for Worcestershire, told Worcester Cor-

oner's Court: "He was staying in an apartment. It is a very hot country, and the air conditioning wasn't working. It appears that he went to open an already open window, where there was no railing to stop him falling."

Mr Allport died on October 11 last year. Cause of death was cardiac arrest as a result of septic shock.

Mr Reid said: "The evidence is so lacking it is impossible to come to a conclusion on the balance of probability. I record an open conclusion."



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No jail for teacher who had child pornography

A PERVERT headteacher who had 'disgusting' child pornography on his computer has walked free from court.

Ross Workman, aged 51, the former head of Oldswinford CoE Primary School in Stourbridge, had more than 500 images – 88 of which were placed in the worst category by police.

Despite this, he was given a community order and walked free from the dock at Wolverhampton Crown Court last Wednesday.

The images – branded 'disgusting' by Judge James Burbidge QC – featured youngsters aged between eight and 12. They had been downloaded by Workman between January 5 and March 7, 2011, before he became headteacher and while he was taking a three-and-a-half-year break from the profession.

Deleted

He had deleted all the images by the time the house in Orwell Close, Stourbridge – where he lived alone – was visited by the police from the Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team.

They seized his computer equipment for analysis on November 3, 2014, and had specialist equipment to retrieve deleted pictures and videos. He was not charged until January 4 this year and left his post on January 31.

Mr Nicholas Berry, prosecuting, said: "He said he regarded pornography as a stress reliever and looked at it most days. He admitted going through a phase of looking at indecent images of children. He said he knew it was wrong and tried to stop."

Miss Judith Kenney, defending, said: "He has paid a huge price for something he did a long time ago when his life was in turmoil. He is highly remorseful."



Judge Burbidge said teacher Ross Workman had lost the job he loved

Workman, of Low Fold Close, Worcester, admitted six charges of making an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child. He was given a three-year community order on condition he completes a sex offender treatment programme, was put on the Sex Offenders Register and banned from working with children.

Judge Burbidge told him: "You are an intelligent man described as honest, open, kind and considerate but clearly you had a secret for some period in your life. You downloaded disgusting

images but did not continue to view them. Your arrest came at a time when you taught children and were in a position of trust. One can only wonder what the parents thought, but there is no suggestion you breached that trust. You acted entirely appropriately while a headteacher."

He told Workman when giving him the community order: "I am able to do this because of the punishment you already received in losing the job you loved – and you gave up this practice before your arrest."

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The memorial plaque to the 26 people who died in the disaster



Mayor Barbara Price and monument designer Tony Ward look at a picture of former miner Charles Cross



Vlad Novakovic, aged 88, at the remembrance ceremony

Disaster recalled at event 50 years after pit closure

DOZENS of people turned out to remember men who lost their lives in a devastating mine fire more than a century ago.

A ceremony was held at the monument that honours the 25 miners and a brave rescuer who died at the Hamstead Colliery Mine in Great Barr in March 1908.

Descendants of the victims and former mine workers were among those who gathered to mark the anniversary. They included Vlad Novakovich, who was the last person to leave the mine when it closed on March 26, 1965. He moved to the Black Country from his native Yugoslavia, aged 20. Mr Novakovic, now 88, said: "What happened was very bad, it was a disaster. They

told me all about it when I came over and showed me where they used to work. It is nice to remember them, we will never forget them. I worked 17 years down there and I enjoyed it."

Tony Ward, a former councillor and founder member of the Hamstead Miners Memorial Trust, said: "It went very well. I was pleased there were a lot of faces I hadn't seen before. There were around 100 people there."

The 1908 Hamstead Colliery Disaster filled the pages of national newspapers and more than 8,000 people surrounded the pit for days, waiting for news from the two teams of rescuers, who were trying to reach the men.

During the rescue attempt John Welsby, of Altoft Mine Rescue – who were leading the operation, died after being overcome by the fumes and smoke that killed the other miners.



Vlad as a young man, who was the last worker to leave the Hamstead Colliery pit before it closed in 1965

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Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) with dentist Dr Polly Mineva, and right, technicians working on suction technology dentures

DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

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"It's clever stuff," says Steve (GDC 142474), "a small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking."

Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery and messy fixatives.

"We recently manufactured a second prescription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they'd been on their initial 'test run' with a steak for dinner.

"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

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biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.



"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds.

Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof – denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision – gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw.

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

"The beauty of the suction technology is that it has the potential to deliver in the right patient excellent retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

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Royal approval as princess opens new canal centre

PRINCESS Anne took a boat trip along a Black Country canal as she officially opened a £3 million visitor and heritage centre in Dudley.

As the sun shone across Dudley on Monday it was the perfect day for The Princess Royal to visit Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust.

Princess Anne arrived at The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, and was greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne, before being introduced to management, including chief executive Nick Morris and several trustees.

Wearing a long green coat, she smiled and spoke to staff individually, taking the time to ask about their roles at the trust's new centre, which includes a purpose-built learning suite and restaurant called The Gongoozler.

The princess spoke to canal volunteer Julia Bird, who said: "She was very interested in what I had to say and particularly about the fact that I used to work for Kennet Horse Boat Company in Berkshire, as horses are one of her main passions."

The Princess Royal took a 45-minute boat trip through Lord Wyrn's Tunnel. The tour was led by Melvyn Wright, towpath manager, who explained the waterway's history.

She also met excited children from Year 5 at Wren's Nest Primary School and unveiled a plaque to mark the opening.

She said: "I would like to say a big thank you for the way in which you have kept history alive."

Before leaving Princess Anne was presented with a traditional canal style painted horse feeding bowl by artist and boat skipper Tim Yorke.



The Princess Royal with canal trust chairman Jeff Luesley and Lady in Waiting Margaret Hammond

Roadshow looks at crime of exploitation

ORGANISATIONS across Dudley have joined forces to highlight the dangers of child sexual exploitation (CSE), as the national awareness day approaches.

In support of the national day tomorrow (Friday, March 18), Dudley Council's CSE team is working with groups from across the borough's voluntary sector to deliver a roadshow to help keep children safe by profiling the crime.

The promotional stand will be in place in Sedgley town centre today (Thursday) and in Halesowen town centre tomorrow.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "It's great to see organisations across our borough joining together to tackle such a serious issue. Child sexual exploitation is the most heinous of crimes and it can affect any child from any background in any area. It involves perpetrators grooming their victims by gaining their trust before emotionally and sexually abusing them. Every parent, professional and young person should know the signs of CSE and this roadshow will hopefully raise awareness of these."

Cruiser ban extended for two more years

AN INJUNCTION which has banned car cruising in the Black Country will be allowed to continue after a hearing in the High Court.

The introduction of the injunction in February 2015 has significantly reduced the problem and eradicated it altogether in many areas, The High Court, sitting in Birmingham, heard.

The Black Country-wide injunction bans drivers from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall – or from promoting, organising or publicising any such event in those areas.

When the injunction was granted by the High Court in December 2014, His Honour Judge Owen directed there should be a review hearing 12 months after its implementation, at which the court would consider the effect of the injunction and decide whether it should be continued to February 2018.

Last week the court permitted the continuation of the injunction.



Chief Inspector Jed White

had turned these local roads into a race track.

As well as deterring would-be car cruisers from gathering, four people who took part in car cruises have been convicted for contempt of court for breaching the injunction, with a further eight prosecutions pending.

Chief Inspector Jed White, of West Midlands Police, said: "Street racing is completely unacceptable and won't be tolerated. West Midlands Police welcome the extension of the ground-breaking ban on car cruisers.

"The injunction enables us, together with our partners, to continue to tackle those individuals who flout the laws of the road and pose a danger for innocent members of the public.

"The force recently launched Operation Hercules, a campaign which sees traffic officers patrolling major trunk roads popular with car cruisers, on the look-out for speeders and drivers of illegally modified vehicles."

Reduction

In evidence presented to the court, Joanne Mason of Wolverhampton's anti social behaviour team said: "There has been a significant reduction in car cruising activity across the Black Country since the injunction came into force.

"There is overwhelming support for the continuation of the injunction from local residents and businesses. It is vital the injunction remains in force to enable police and the four Black Country councils to continue to tackle the dangerous, anti-social and nuisance behaviour of car cruising."

Before the injunction came into force there were a number of hotspots around the region including the Black Country Route near Bilston and Birmingham New Road on the border of Wolverhampton and Dudley. Drivers and spectators

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Publishing tips at talk

DUDLEY Writers' Network is holding an event for authors to find out how to independently self publish.

Surgeon Andrew Slater, who has had two books published this way, will be giving advice in a talk at Kingswinford Library on Saturday, March 26, at 10.30am.

Places for the free event need to be reserved by calling the library on (01384) 812740.

14 Mini-movie set to raise awareness of condition

A NEW animated video has been launched by Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice to raise awareness of lymphoedema as part of a campaign to educate people about the condition.

The three-minute-long video shows how the body's lymphatic system deals with fluid build up in cells, and how this differs when someone has lymphoedema, which is a condition that causes swelling in the body's tissues.

It can affect any part of the body, but usually develops in the arms or legs. The video has been launched to mark Lymphoedema Awareness Week.

The video goes on to explain how the condition, which affects 100,000 people in the UK, can be treated with a combination of skin care, exercise, compression hosiery, bandaging and massage.

Stacy Pugh, lymphoedema clinical nurse manager at Compton Hospice, said: "We wanted to create a video which would help to explain the condition in a simple and easy to understand format. Unfortunately not many people are aware of lymphoedema and so often symptoms can be mistaken for other illnesses or being overweight."

"In creating this video we hope that more people will become aware of lymphoedema and seek treatment."

Compton Hospice is one of the largest specialist lymphoedema units in the UK and treats in excess of 800 patients every year. Matthew Weston, co-founder of Stone's Throw Media who have made the video, said: "It has been great teaming up with Compton Hospice to create this video."

Anyone concerned about the condition should visit their local GP or specialist lymphoedema department for further advice.



Simplistic drawings are used for the animation to raise awareness of the condition



The three-minute animated video shows how lymphoedema affects the body



The video has been launched to mark Lymphoedema Awareness Week

Caitlin sets out her Moranifesto

REVIEW

By Richard Guttridge

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Caitlin Moran pulled no punches as she took to the stage to discuss her new book.

The writer tackled politics and feminism, as she gave her views on how the world could be a better place.

The author, columnist and writer of the Channel 4 show *Raised by Wolves* spoke to BBC Radio 6 presenter Matt Everitt at Birmingham Town Hall about her latest book – which she has titled *Moranifesto*.

The 40-year-old, who grew up in Wolverhampton, met fans at a book signing following the show.

As the title suggests, her book delves into what she believes is wrong with the country and how it could be improved for the benefit of everyone.

Prominence

Moran has written several previous books, but she has risen to prominence over the last year due to the success of her sitcom *Raised by Wolves* – which is set on a Wolverhampton council estate. Around 500 people attended the hour-long show as Moran reeled of a series of issues that irritated her, including how the Conservative cabinet is made up largely of people who went to the same school.

"What are the chances that the great economic minds of this country all went to the same school?" she asked the audience, astounded at the apparent ridiculousness of the suggestion.

Moran also vehemently defended



Caitlin Moran takes to the stage at Birmingham Town Hall

her right to pull faces when posing for photos, after receiving a letter of complaint about it.

She insisted she would rather be compared to Rik Mayall and Daffy Duck than female supermodels as they just looked like they were having fun. Her performance was part serious, part comedy.

Moran had fun with the audience while discussing her book, but there were also moments of dead silence as she spoke passionately about her views

on feminism and how, still, much more needs to change.

The book, which was released last Thursday, features a 16-point manifesto on how she believes the country could be improved, focusing on how politics can be made accessible to all.

Sensible suggestions included bringing back water fountains to town centres rather than making people pay for water and the country then being left with millions of plastic bottles to be recycled.

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Is your kitchen in need of TLC?



See the latest kitchen designs on display in this showroom at Cherry Kitchen Makeovers



The company has styles to suit every possible taste



The showroom is easy to find, located next to Aldi in Stourbridge, and is open every day

IF you love the idea of updating your kitchen but can't stand the thought of the mess and upheaval that ripping out your existing one would cause, then there is another solution to consider.

The Cherry Kitchen Makeover concept offers exactly what the name suggests – a huge range of replacement doors, drawer fronts, work tops and appliances to “cherry pick” from, using your existing cabinets to give your kitchen an exciting new look.

Cherry Kitchen Makeovers' ethos is based on its promise to customers that “Our doors are fitted to your original kitchen carcass with maximum speed and minimum hassle and this solution normally costs approximately half the price of a full replacement kitchen”.

The idea of the designer cosmetic makeovers has grown dramatically since the popularity of TV shows like Changing Rooms, but Cherry Kitchen Makeovers offers much more than merely a door replacement service. “Everything is made to measure to our clients exact specifications,” said MD Rob Hollick. “We work with our customers from the initial enquiry through to the end result – a complete transformation”.

Matching panels, made to measure cornices, pelmets and fascias are all available to provide the finishing touches, while accessories including wine racks and glass cabinets can be made to match existing furnishings. Plus, everything comes with a comprehensive two year guarantee.

Cherry Kitchens also offer an exclusive range of made-to-measure glass splash backs plus the latest range of Samsung Quartz work surfaces and upstands. If you are looking for in-

spiration, Cherry Kitchens offers a showroom with a difference. The Midlands' largest kitchen makeover showroom, you'll find everything you could possibly imagine for the perfect makeover on display to feel, touch, match and select to ensure that personal finish for your own very special kitchen makeover.

Transformation

As well as a wide selection of doors and work surfaces on display, you can choose from new glass sinks, the latest taps, exclusive glass splash backs, a new designer range of handles and the latest top brand appliances. To complete your final kitchen transformation, see the latest range of luxury flooring from Polyflore and LG and the latest LED lighting options.

Based in Stourbridge just off the ring road, next to Aldi, the Cherry Kitchen showroom is open seven days a week (Sat/Sun 10am till

4pm) and parking is free. A free no obligation quotation service is available for you to discuss your design options and choose from an almost endless array of colour options and finishes in the comfort of your home.

Robert said: “Our experienced and professional surveyors will take measurements and assess exactly what is required. Obviously the condition of existing cabinets is checked, and any that need replacing can be changed and new cabinets added to expand the existing design.

“Once you decide to proceed, your kitchen is checked again by a technical surveyor to ensure all aspects of the new makeover are correct. Your kitchen transformation is then carried out normally within two to three weeks and the work is completed within two to three working days, with the minimum of fuss and disruption. You can revitalise your kitchen from a simple

door change to a complete makeover, and all rubbish is taken away by the company. If you want to see what their customers think, visit Yell.com and check out the verified five star reviews.

You shouldn't gamble on a company you don't know and Cherry Kitchen Makeovers' customers have total peace of mind, knowing that their deposit and guarantee is fully protected by the Consumer Protection Association. Cherry Kitchens Makeovers is a preferred trader within their organisation and has been a member for many years.

With so many designs and colours, and an inclusive price range, The Cherry Kitchen Makeover option really does provide something for everyone and viewing of their new showroom is a must.

For more information or a free colour 36 page brochure call 01384 395799 or visit their website www.cherry-kitchens.co.uk

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- Average installation time only 2 to 3 days - less mess, less fuss, half the cost!
- Your local kitchen makeover specialist - Approved by the Consumer Protection Association for your total peace of mind
- Range of quality luxury flooring available
- Full replacement kitchen service also available
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16 Sculptor's new Saxon art project

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 17, 2016

A BLACK Country sculptor with a base in Cradley Heath will see his latest project installed across a bridge in Staffordshire.

Six hand-carved stone plaques designed by Luke Perry will be laid along the Ladybridge, in Tamworth, ready to be unveiled in time for St George's Day.

The pieces commemorate important moments in the town's Anglo-Saxon history. Each were hand-carved into Yorkstone flags using a mallet and chisel in Dark Ages style.

Luke, who works from a studio in Stourbridge or factory in Cradley Heath, said: "Tamworth used to be the capital of Mercia and recently they have been redoing the town, concentrating on the medieval bridge."

Previous projects include the chainmakers monument in Cradley Heath.

Free spake at town's library

A PROJECT looking at Black Country phrases is coming to Cradley Heath.

"Where's Our Spake Gone?" will feature performances by singer and humourist Heather Wastie and Billy Spake Mon, comparing variations in dialect in Cradley Heath, Oldbury, Tipton and Gornal.

The free event is being held at Cradley Heath Library, in Upper High Street, on Saturday April 6 from 7pm. See www.our-spake.co.uk for details.

FOCUS ON CRADLEY HEATH

Call for car park action as commuters clog streets

THE knock-on effects of congestion at Cradley Heath rail station car park has prompted community leaders to call for improvements.

Residents are angry over commuters at the busy station leaving their cars in neighbouring streets, clogging them up. Councillors say their efforts to get extra spaces provided to help ease the problem have fallen on deaf ears at transport authority Centro.

Speaking at a council meeting last week, Councillor Anne Shackleton said: "Parking at Cradley Heath station is a massive problem. Residents are affected on a daily basis and the three ward councillors spend a considerable amount of our time addressing the issues created."

"I counted 104 vehicles parked in an area opposite the station where they pay £2 a day."

"If that land – which we believe will soon be developed for housing – isn't used I don't know where we will be in relation to car parking issues at the station."

Councillor Shackleton claimed Centro had refused to buy a site which would have helped ease congestion.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper promised to take up the matter with the transport authority. He said: "I know parking has been a problem in and around that area."

By David Cosgrove

Cradley Heath and Old Hill ward Councillor John Tipper said: "The station is well used, which is obviously good, but there's just not enough parking there to deal with the number of cars. Over the past three years we've encouraged Centro to look at ways of expanding the car parking that's available, including using the former council car park in High Street."

Centro spokesman Mark Langford said: "Park and Ride at Cradley Heath has 231 spaces and, like other stations offering this facility, is extremely popular and fills up quickly – which is why we advise people give themselves enough time to get a space."

"We would urge anyone unable to get a space to park responsibly and with consideration for neighbouring residents and businesses"



Intervate director Julian Ackerley, left, and Andrew Wynne of FBC Manby Bowdler

Expansion for wood pellet firm

CRADLEY Heath firm Intervate, a leading manufacturer of wood pellets for use in renewable heating systems, has expanded into additional premises to support continued growth of the business.

Legal advice was provided by Wolverhampton-based solicitor Andrew Wynne of FBC Manby Bowdler.

Established in 2008, and originally based in Coventry, Intervate has enjoyed sustained growth over the last eight years with turnover now at £3.5m.

Soon after the business was launched, it became apparent that larger premises with modern warehousing facilities and transport links would be vital for growth.

So three years ago the business made the move to its existing 18,000 sq ft premises in Cradley Heath, supported by the FBC Manby Bowdler team, and is expanding on an adjoining site.

New safety measures on danger road

NEW safety measures have been brought to an accident hotspot in Cradley Heath after speed tables which were meant to be a solution were ripped out.

Sandwell Council has come up with a new scheme for Barrs Road after receiving a backlash from residents, who said the speed tables had not improved the situation at all.

The speed tables, a cause of huge frustration for residents, were removed just a year after being installed in a bid to boost road safety after a fatal accident in 2013.

Neighbours said the noise of vehicles going over the speed tables kept them awake at night, and accidents had continued to happen.

Highways bosses have installed flashing signs and road markings to remind motorists to drive at 20mph during school times.

Four taken to hospital

FOUR people had to be cut free after a two-car crash at the junction of Corngraves Road and Timbertree Crescent on Monday afternoon.

There were three people in one car, a man in his 80s who suffered fractured ribs, a woman in her 80s had a chest injury and a woman in her 40s was 'walking wounded'. All three were taken to Russells Hall Hospital. The driver of the other car had head and chest injuries and was taken to Sandwell Hospital.

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In fact, Dreamland Bedding Centre has been matching customers with perfect beds for the past 40 years and has established an excellent reputation for the quality of its service and products.

The family business was founded in 1976 by Mike Brown, who is such a familiar face in the local community that he is known as Mike the Bed.

The team of experienced staff is headed by manageress Carol Stock, who has been part of the Dreamland family since the beginning.

Spacious

Located in Mill Street, the spacious store has undergone expansion over the years and the showroom displays top quality beds and mattresses from famous brands including Silentnight, Slumberland, Sealy and many more.

Dreamland is proud to be National Bed Federation member stockists which means all its beds are rigorously tested for your peace of mind.

Its impressive range includes memory foam, pocket sprung, orthopaedic mattresses, beds with storage and much more.

This is backed up by a large warehouse containing hundreds of beds and mattresses, meaning your chosen product can be delivered swiftly.

"Making sure customers get the right bed at the right price was our objective from day one and it has continued to this day," said Mike.

Mike is justifiably proud of the outstanding customer service offered by his dedicated staff,



Plenty of parking at Dreamland Bedding, in Mill Street, Brierley Hill



Room to browse – so much choice on offer in the vast showroom

who focus on meeting individual needs to ensure that quality, service and value are maintained at all times.

In Dreamland's unhurried and relaxing atmosphere, friendly advisers are always happy to help you towards a great night's sleep.

This includes customers with health problems, for whom it is even more important to choose the right bed.

Easier

"Some people do come to us in pain and we want to make their lives more comfortable," said Mike.

Dreamland aims to make customers lives easier. There's plenty of room to park at the rear of the store and Dreamland deliver across

With such an excellent reputation for service it has been matching its customers with perfect beds for the past 40 years

the West Midlands, including Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

Dreamland will deliver and assemble your new bed and take away the old one free of charge. Many customers choose to make a donation to Mary Stevens Charity, supported

by Dreamland. This has become a well known fundraising scheme with thousands of pounds raised for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Mike added: "We have raised more than £120,000 for the hospice through the delivery and removal contributions and some of the old beds have been sold in hospice's shops to generate further funds."

Dreamland attracts a lot of its business through word of mouth and recommendations.

Mike added that because they have been around for such a long time people know that they can rely on Dreamland.

Look out for Dreamland's fabulous offers and events to celebrate its 40 years in business throughout the year.

BUSINESS PROFILE

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Telephone:

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Mary Poppins is practically perfect

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Mary Poppins
Birmingham Hippodrome
THERE is only one word to describe this show, and it's a long one – supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

The Disney organisation and theatre impresario Cameron Mackintosh have joined forces to bring the magical nanny to the stage in a spit-spot spectacular that will surely satisfy fans of the classic family movie musical.

This revival of the revamp penned by Downton Abbey writer Julian Fellowes and directed by Richard Eyre has lots of West End class with its well-drilled performers, impressive sets and stunning special effects.

A lot rests on the shoulders of young actress Zizi Strallen as the enchanted childminder, and Bonnie Langford's niece is practically perfect in every way for the role.

Dancer

She is a superb dancer, having been a member of Matthew Bourne's company (Bourne co-directs and choreographs this production) and also has an impressive voice in a show with several powerful female singers.

But what she has even more of is charisma, conveying with flashing eyes, pristine posture and her forthright no-nonsense dialogue the essence of PL Travers' super-nanny. Her performance is informed by Julie Andrews but Miss Strallen brings something new to the role – more magical mystery and youthful energy.

She has a fine partner in Australian song and dance man Matt Lee (a Frank Skinner lookalike). His gravi-



Zizi Strallen as enchanted nanny Mary Poppins Photo by Johan Persson

ty-defying stunts, irrepressible energy and fine singing make for a memorable Bert, as he sweeps Poppins off her feet and onto the rooftops of London.

The show is largely loyal to the film but the movie's animated sequences are replaced with new scenes. These include an incredibly colourful park routine, which seems to co-opt Wonderland and Narnia, a creepy scene where the Banks' children's ill-treated toys come to life and a delirious number involving Caribbean word-seller Mrs Corry (Wreh-Asha Walton).

New songs from George Stiles and Anthony Drewe fit in well with the Sherman brothers' originals.

A team of youngsters will be taking turns as Jane and Michael Banks, with Georgie Hill and Jabez Cheeseman in sparky form as the mischievous youngsters on Press Night.

Just like Mary Poppins and her magic umbrella, this show is a soar-away success, so get a ticket quick before the wind changes direction. The show continues in Birmingham until April 23.

The 1975 reinvent 1980s-style pop

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

'EVERYTHING has been done,' says frontman of The 1975 Matty Healy, so for their second album the Wilmslow boys seem to have gone back to reinvent the 1980s.

Acts like Duran Duran, INXS, The Police, Hall & Oates cast a shadow over the pretentiously entitled *I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It*.

But there is no denying the popular appeal of songs like *The Sound and This Must Be The Dream*, whilst their out-Bieber Justin himself on *Loving Someone*.

The ambient sub-Sigur Ros interludes are dispensable, and the ballad *Nana* is mawkish.

Having topped the charts on both sides of the Atlantic, expect a triumphant tone when *The 1975* play the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Tuesday, March 22.

Get your rocks off with *Primal Scream*, the Screaming Queens outfit are back with more gospel-infused pseudo-Stones rock on 11th studio album *Chaosmosis*.

Bobby Gillespie and co hit the ground running with the shuffle beat and jazzy piano on the bongo-beating opener *Trippin' On Your Love*. Guests on the album include Haim, Sky Ferreira and Rachel Zeffira from Cat's Eyes.

But it soon becomes apparent the *Chaosmosis* is missing a monster track, a Rocks. However, the groovy *Golden Rope* comes close.

Iggy Pop seems to be at his best when he has collaborators to nudge him in the right direction, whether it be *The Stooges* in the 60s or David Bowie in the 70s. So it is with new album *Post Pop Depression*, conceived in the desert with Josh Homme from Queens Of The Stone Age.



The 1975 have topped the album charts on both sides of the Atlantic

This is this godfather of punk at his most melancholy and melodic, his rock god voice rumbling added gravitas to the instantly appealing tracks *Break Into Your Heart* and *Gardenia*. Just when you think he has mellowed, he brings some wry humour to *Chocolate Drops* and ends *Paraguay* with a rant.

Arranging Time, the sixth album from LA singer-songwriter *Peter Dinklage*, is a classy set of songs from an accomplished artist who has flown under the radar for too long.

His wistful Americana with subtle touches of synth deserve a big audience, especially for such lovely tracks as *Halifax* and *Tomorrow*.

Other highlights include the dream pop of *She Was Weird* and the rocking *In Your Head*.

The Coral make a triumphant return after a five-year hiatus with their eighth studio album, *Distance Inbetween*, an exercise in classic, timeless psychedelic pop-rock.

In the melodic Merseyside tradition of *Echo* and *The Bunnymen* and *The Teardrop Explodes*, the album was re-

corded at Liverpool's Parr Street Studio and the band fronted by singer/guitarist James Skelly have been joined by guitarist Paul Molloy, formerly of The Zutons.

Highlights include the harmonious pop of *Miss Fortune* and the harder edged *Million Eyes* and *Fear Machine*. It's certainly an impressive comeback.

Electronic duo *Underworld*, featuring Rick Smith and Worcester's Karl Hyde, are back with their seventh album *Barbara Barbara, We Face A Shining Future*, their first new music since that composed for the London Olympics Opening Ceremony.

From the percussive thud and spoken lyrics of opener *Exhale*, we are in familiar territory for anyone whose formative years were spent listening to *Born Slippy on a loop*.

It continues with the menacing techno of *If Rah*, the blissful sweep of *Low Burn*, mysterious orientalism of *Santiago Cuatro*, the meditative Motorhome, out-and-out dancer *Ova Nova* and gorgeous epic finale *Nylon Strung*.

fast the ticket

In the mix

Little Mix – Page 23

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed



Robin Morrissey

See Page 23

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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On their 14th UK tour, Sergei Bobrov's company present new production The Snow Maiden on Sunday (4pm), Sleeping Beauty on Monday (7.30pm) and Swan Lake on Tuesday (7.30pm). Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

80s Invasion



**Friday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, B'ham**

This tour brings together Live Aid and Band Aid co-founder, ex-Ultravox front-man Midge Ure (pictured) with Big Country, Nick Heyward from Haircut 100, and Curiosity Killed The Cat. Visit www.thsh.co.uk

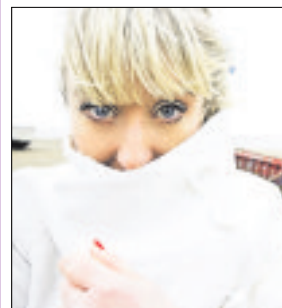
Peter Andre



**Saturday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham**

The Aussie heart-throb swings into action with his versions of Rat Pack classics in tribute to Frank Sinatra and other great crooners, plus Mysterious Girl, of course. Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Gwyneth Herbert



**Friday, 8pm
The Glee Club, B'ham**

Defying genre classification, this musical adventurer embraces jazz, musicals and lately Swahili nursery rhymes, and will be performing with pianist Ned Cartwright. Visit www.glee.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Half Moon Run

Tue at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Modern Minds

Fri at 6pm, £6
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

80s Invasion

Fri at 7pm, £34.50
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The 1975

Tue at 8pm,
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Tony Mortimer And His Band

Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Joe Bonamassa

Sat at 8pm
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Jason Donovan

Fri at 8pm, £28.50 - £32.50
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Maiden United

Sun at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox

Fri at 6.30pm, £22
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Wonder Stuff

Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Joey Cape

Sun at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

An Audience With Tony Iommi

Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Disciples

Thu at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Birmingham,
B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Mushroomhead & American Head Charge

Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Mariah Carey

Sun at 6.30pm,
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Crossfaith

Thu at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Little Mix

Fri at 6pm, £25.70 - £35.70
Genting Arena,
Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Neighbourhood

Sat at 6.30pm - 10pm,
The Institute,
Digbeth, Birmingham,
B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Emma Stevens

Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

All-Star American Legends

Thu at 7.30pm,
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Amorphis

Tue at 7pm,
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WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Tracer

Tue at 7pm, £13
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Talon: Eagles Tribute

Wed at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Blue Orchids

Sat at 7pm,
The Flapper,
Birmingham, B1 2NU.
Call 0121 236 2421

An Evening With Clint Mansell

Wed at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Peter Andre: Come Swing With Me

Sat at 7pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Emmy The Great

Sat at 6.30pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Ellie Goulding

Mon at 7.30pm,
£33.20 - £35.70
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Life Of Agony

Fri at 7pm, £20
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Laetitia Sadier & Nicholas Krgovich

Wed at 7.30pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath, Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Stereo MCs

Fri at 6.30pm, £17
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Three Degrees

Sat at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

ACOUSTIC & FOLK

Kelly Oliver

Mon at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Nathan Carter

Mon at 7.30pm, £24
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

JAZZ & BLUES

Mike Sanchez And His Band

Fri at 9.30pm,
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Sax In The City: The Notebenders

Sat at 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

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Chetham's School Of Music

Fri at 1.10pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

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Sat at 5pm - 7.30pm,
£9.50 - £35
Birmingham Cathedral,
B3 2QB. Call 0121 262 1840

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Tue at 10.30am, Wed at 1.30pm,
Thu at 10.30am,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Horrible Histories: Incredible Invaders

Tue at 1.30pm, Wed at 10.30am,
Thu at 1.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

42nd Street

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Goodnight Mister Tom

Fri at 7pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

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mac, Cannon Hill Road,
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Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Ireland's Call

Thu at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Best Thing

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mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Made In The Midlands: Young REP

Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Fame: The Musical: Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

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Russian State Ballet Of Siberia: The Snow Maiden

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Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7pm, Thu
at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
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Mary Poppins

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7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at
7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
£25.55 - £30.60
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Brendan Cole: A Night To Remember

Sun at 7.30pm, £19.50 -
£39.50
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Mark Thomas: Trespass

Sat at 7.30pm, £14 - £15
Lichfield Garrick,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Joe Lycett: That's The Way, A-Ha

A-Ha, Joe Lycett
Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

TALKS

Gordon Buchanan - Lost Adventures

Thu at 7.30pm,
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WS13 6HR.
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

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Little Mix girls are thinking big now

THEIR first show proved so popular that Little Mix had to add an extra date at Birmingham's Genting Arena.

The British all-girl group – Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Jade Thirlwall and Leigh-Anne Pinnock – will play on Friday, March 18, and return on Sunday, April 3.

They've enjoyed a heady rise after forming exclusively for the eighth series of The X Factor in 2011.

The band signed with Simon Cowell's Syco Music and released a winner's single, a cover of Damien Rice's Cannonball. Since then, they've barely been out of the headlines.

Their debut album, DNA, sold almost 400,000 copies, while the follow-up, Salute, did almost as well. The band's most recent album, Get Weird, has been their biggest seller to date, notching up almost half a million sales. It features the hits Black Magic and Love Me Like You.

"We had a lot of fun when we wrote this album," says Edwards. "We've been writing it for a year. [The album is] very fun, very colourful, very pop."

"There's ballads, there's brilliant pop songs, there's a bit of R&B in there," adds Thirlwall. "There's something for everyone."

Little Mix worked on the album with Jess Glynne. "When we wrote the album we were getting so stressed about what it would sound like," Nelson explains. "Then we just thought, let's just write what we want to do and have fun with this album. Jess was so much fun to work with."

Thirlwall adds: "Jesy did 'I Want' with us as well. She came in at a piv-



Latest Little Mix album, Get Weird, which has sold more than half a million copies

otal moment, and it's an emotional song for us, and it's really honest and it gets you right there."

Little Mix also became friends with One Direction, who also found fame on The X Factor. "How amazing to know that they're a phenomenon and to be like, 'Boys – we've done well, ha-

ven't we? Let's have a break,'" says Pinnock.

Not that Little Mix don't ever want to stop," Edwards adds. "We always want more. We want to go to Madison Square Garden and achieve everything."



'My uncle has been an enormous help'

Bob's your uncle, Robin

HIS uncle's one of the most famous actors in the business. But Robin Morrissey isn't trying to follow in Stafford-born Neil Morrissey's footsteps. He doesn't hanker for the starring role in a 2016 equivalent of Men Behaving Badly, he's no designs on becoming Bob The Builder either.

Instead Morrissey has been slowly building up an impressive string of acting credits, featuring in Cloud Atlas, Love Bite and Fracture among others.

Morrissey, however, is in no doubt that his family has been instrumental as he's begun to make his way. "My uncle has been an enormous help," he says. "He's been amazing. He's a brilliant man and has been helpful in terms of helping me to understand what an actor's life is. I can't say enough about how helpful he's been. My immediate family is also very supportive."

Morrissey has been hard at work for a new Birmingham Repertory Theatre production of Nikolai Gogol's The Government Inspector, slated at the Centenary Square theatre from Saturday, March 19, until March 26.

The play is set in a small provincial Russian town. Morrissey takes up the story: "It's a very corrupt town and the officials are pocketing a lot of money. They probably have to because there is nothing else there. Everything that gets sent from St Petersburg to build churches goes into their pockets. The Government inspector is leaving to inspect the small town and the officials there are in danger of being sent to Siberia."

Morrissey immersed himself in the works of Gogol before signing up, saying: "Gogol's a fascinating character. There are a lot of parallels with today's society. When you have a script as good as this it makes the job a lot easier."

Mega-stars are on way to the arena

THE mega-stars are on their way to the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham.

On Sunday Mariah Carey brings her Sweet Sweet Fantasy tour, her first in Europe for 13 years, to the city centre arena. Guitar hero Joe Bonamassa plays on Saturday and Brit-winner Ellie Goulding, enjoying considerable success with third album Delirium, plays on Monday with support from John Newman.

The 1975 brings songs of Chocolate and Girls on Tuesday. Their second album is entitled I Like It When You Sleep For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It – longest name ever for a US chart-topping album.

Band celebrate 30 Wonder Stuff years

THE Wonder Stuff are on the road celebrating 30 years since they got together in the Black Country and play Birmingham O2 Academy on Saturday.

Fronted by Miles Hunt, they release debut The Eight Legged Groove Machine in 1988 (first of nine studio albums) and had hits with Circlesquare, The Size of a Cow, Welcome to the Cheap Seats and, with Vic Reeves, a chart-topping cover of Dizzy. Highlights included their Big Day Out homecoming concert at Walsall's Bescot Stadium in 1991 and headlining the Phoenix Festival in 1994.

Support at Birmingham includes The Wedding Present.

Brum rising stars in five-band show

BIRMINGHAM'S next big thing Hankks launch their new EP at the O2 Institute in Digbeth tomorrow night (Friday) with support from The Assist, Faith, Pollen and Giant Elf Pist.

Sussex punk trio Traams recall Tubeway Army and early Cure on their recently released second album Modern Dancing and will be in concert tonight (Thursday) at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath. At the same venue, Bad Seeds and Grinderman drummer Jim Scavunos joins Joe Gideon for songs from his Versa Vice album on Sunday, Berlin punks Diat play Tuesday and Stereolab's Laetitia Sadier Wednesday.

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DIGITAL



Michael Jackson's Journey from Motown to Off the Wall
(BBC2, 9pm)

Spike Lee's documentary charting the path of the King of Pop's career through to the release of *Off the Wall*, the 1979 project that broke records, and propelled Michael to international stardom. Lee's investigation begins in the early days of Jackson's time in the limelight, from his work with his brothers and his solo outings, and details how the Jackson boys' success led them to leave Motown. Includes contributions by Berry Gordy, Questlove, and Philly International Records founders Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, who produced the Jackson brothers' first two non-Motown albums, resulting in their first platinum single.

10.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live, **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts (R)**, **12.00 BBC News: Weather**, **12.10 Football Focus**, **12.50 Saturday Sportsday**, **1.00 Athletics**, **2.00 Live Six Nations**, **2.00 Wales v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm)**, **4.30 Final Score**, **5.15 Dynamo: Magician Impossible**, **5.45 Celebrity Mastermind (R)**, **6.15 BBC News**, **6.25 Regional Programme**, **6.30 Pointless Celebrities**. New series. Simon Day, Paul Chowdhury, Emily Attack, Ian Lavender, Kerry Godwin, Ben Green, Simon Smith, Steve Pemberton and Bob Mortimer take part in a special edition of the quiz.

7.20 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v England (Kick-off 8.00pm). John Inverdale presents from the Stade de France, where the referee's tourney begins. He reaches his conclusion. There is a chance that this fixture will decide the destination of the title, with England still in with an excellent chance following victories in their opening three matches against Scotland, Italy and Ireland. The meeting between the nations on the final day last year was a thriller from start to finish, with England knowing they needed to win by 26 points to secure more to the title and after a match that produced no less than 12 tries, they fell agonisingly short despite their record-breaking 55-35 victory. With Les Bleus still seemingly in need of a string of either two consecutive positive displays, Eddie Jones will be confident of ending his first tournament in charge of England on a high, even if ultimately the title doesn't come to his way.

10.00 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin hosts as the all-important winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. **11.00 Everton v Arsenal at Goodison Park** and **Crystal Palace v Leicester City at Selhurst Park**; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Film: The Uninvited. (2009) Thriller, starring Emily Browning.

1.15 Film: Wake Wood. (2010) 2.40 **Weather for the Week Ahead**, **2.45 BBC**

7.35 Film: *The Big Sky*. (1952) **8.35 Film:** *Forbidden Planet*. (1956) **10.10** *Homes Under the Hammer*. (R) **11.10** *Natural World: Spectacled Bears*. (R) **11.15** *Shadows of the Forest*. (R) **12.10** *The Rick Stein Story*. (R) **12.15** *Top Gear*. (R) **1.00** *The Best Dishes Ever*. (R) **1.30** *Escape to the Country*. (R) **2.20 Film:** *The Red Shoes*. (1948) **Powell** and **Pressburger's** drama, starring **Melba Shearer. **4.30** *Flotilla*. (R) **5.30** *Big Dreams Small Spaces*. (R)**

6.30 **Gardeners' World**. **Monty Don** begins to sow annual climbers and gets started on tidying and mulching his borders, while **Joe Swift** reveals how and when to plant perennials. (R)

7.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip**. **TV** presents **Johnny Ball** and **John Craven** embark on a quest to unearth collectibles in **Hampshire** and **Dorset**, with help from experts **Charles Hanson** and **Phillip Serrell**. (R)

8.00 **Perry and Croft: Made in Britain**. A celebration of comedy writing duo **David Croft** and **Jimmy Perry**, examining how their work can be viewed as a unique chronicle of the **UK** in the 20th century. (R)

8.30 **Dad's Army**. **Captain Mainwaring** lets **Frazier** take charge of the platoon, gambling that a taste of authority will give him a more responsible attitude. (R)

9.00 **Michael Jackson's Journey from Motown to Off the Wall**. **Spide Lee's** documentary charting the path of the **King of Pop's** career through to the release of **Off the Wall**, the 1979 project that broke records, and propelled **Michael** to international stardom. **Lee's** investigation begins in the early days of **Jackson's** time in the limelight, from his work with his brothers and his solo outings, and delves into the **Los Angeles** boys' success and the **Leaves** **Motown**. Includes contributions by **Berry Gordy**, **Questlove**, and **Philly International Records** founders **Kenny Gamble** and **Leon Huff** who produced the **Jackson** brothers' first two **Motown** albums, resulting in their first platinum single. (R)

10.30 Pop Goes BBC Two. (R)

12.00 **Live Athletics**. **3.00** **Messiah** at the **Foundling Hospital**. (R) **4.00** **A Cable Abroad: Cambodia**. (R) **5.00** **The Fifteen**

0.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Story. (R) **7.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.15** Show. (R) **9.25** Murder: She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder: She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.29** Regional Programme. **12.30** Big Box Office. (R) **1.00** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. **1.00** Tipping Point. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Scotland (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.10 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** X-Men act to role Hugh Jackman steps into the huge of guest announcer this week, and is joined by his Eddie the Eagle co-star Taron Egerton. Ant and Dec's evening continues with a live shot Simon Cowell's, and as the pair face a life on the run, Dec discovers the real killer's identity. Back in the real world, Peter Crouch and Abby Clayton get into the mood in *I'm a Celebrity... Get Out of Me Earl*, and the End of the Show Show transforms into a West End showdown, as the cast of two high-profile musicals compete in a give-off. Plus, as the lucky runner-up, the audience if given a chance to win the items advertised in one of last week's commercial breaks.

8.40 **You're Back in the Room**, Phil Schofield and renowned illusionist Harry Houdini challenge five more strangers to complete seemingly simple challenges, this time enlisting the aid of Chris Kamara.

9.40 **The Jonathan Ross Show**. The host is joined in the studio by Hugh Jackman, Taron Egerton, Emma Corrin and the new band, Primal Scream perform. Last in the series.

10.45 **ITV News**; Weather.

11.00 **Film: Yes Man**. (2008) Comedy based on the book by Danny Wallace, starring Jim Carrey.

1.00 **Jackpot247**. **3.30** **Murder**, She Wrote.

15 The King I Met Your Mother (R) **6.40**
The Howling of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of
Queens. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **8.00**
Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30**
Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00**
The Money Game. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang
Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory.
(R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show.
11.30 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **12.30**
Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying
Highlights. **2.15** Channel 4
Race of Champions. (R) **4.30** The Fourth and
Kempston Park. **4.30** Come Dine With
Me. **5.30** Come Dine With Me. **5.30**
Come Dine With Me.

6.00 **Come Dine With Me.** Jade, a
former soldier now seeking her
fortune as a balloon sculpting
entertainer, hosts the fourth and
final dinner party in Swansea. She
plans to execute her evening's
entertainments with military
precision, but with mother-of-two
Adele and patriotic chef Michael
Leon still at loggerheads, things
might not go so smoothly as she
had planned. As the evening draws
to a close, the diners deliver the
final round of results, revealing
why the host has secured the £1,000
prize.

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

6.45 **The World's Weirdest Weather.**
Strange sounds produced by
unusual weather, including bell-
like ringing resonating from rocks,
sci-fi style humming noises
coming from lakes, and the ear-
splitting roar of deadly twisters.

7.40 **Film: The Day After Tomorrow.**
(2004) A climatologist warns
global warming will soon result in
destructive freak weather, or even
another ice age. He tries to warn
everyone who has time to prepare
for the worst, but the crisis happens
almost immediately – and as
storms, earthquakes and
hurricanes strike in terrifying
fashion, he races across America
from his home in New York
New York. Disaster thriller, with
Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid.

10.00 **Film: Kick-Ass 2.** (2013)
Premiere. Amateur vigilante Dave
joins a team of criminals, but
the world's first superhero movie.
Action comedy sequel, with Aaron
Taylor-Johnson and Chloe Grace
Moretz.

12.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares
USA. (R) **1.00** Hollywoods. (R) **3.10**
Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

00 Milkshake! **8.55** The Fairly OddParents. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.40** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **R 12.10** The Gadget Show. **R 1.15** Police Interceptors. **R 2.05** Can't I Pay? We'll Take It Away. **R 3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **R 4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **R 5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **R**
6.00 5 News Weekend.
6.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Callen and Sam hunt for two gunmen who shot Deeks during a robbery at a convenience store, and discover the gunmen were gang members for hire.
7.00 NCIS: New Orleans. Lachlan Colston, a lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy, is murdered on US soil, prompting Special Agent Victor Nunez to rush across to travel to New Orleans from Australia to investigate. Evidence mounts suggesting that Colston's death was a hired hit, but when the team moves in to apprehend the hit man, Parsons' rash actions jeopardise the arrest. Suitably humbled, the Aussie agent agrees to tow the line as Pride and his colleagues learn that Colston may have been killed to derail a nuclear weapons scheme to be established on the Cocos Islands.
8.00 NCIS. While on a joint Coast Guard and NCIS training exercise at sea, Gibbs and Agent Borin spot a dead man overboard, who is found to be a missing member of the crew of a cargo vessel.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley spent extended highlights of the weekend's matches from the Championship, which included Derby County v Middlesbrough.
10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley spent a round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, which included Wigan Athletic v Bradford City, an Arsenal v Northampton Town.
10.30 The NCIS Movie: Judgement Day The funeral of a special agent in Los Angeles leads Shepard on a covert mission to finish some classified business she began a decade previously in Europe. **R**
12.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

7BC Four
10.00 Human Planet **8.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **9.00**
 Follow the Money **11.00** Arena: Ken Dodd
 – Happiness **12.00** Bee Gees at the BBC
 and Beyond **1.00** The Joy of the Bee Gees
 1981 **2.00** Top of Clevens: The Music That
 Made the Movies **3.00** Top of the Pops:
 1981 **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
 Takeaway **12.30** The Almost Impossible
 Gameshow **1.25** Scorpion **2.25** You've
 Been Framed! **3.00** 100 Animals **3.35**
 Miss Legally Blonde (2001) **5.25** Film:
 Kiss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous
 (2005) **7.40** Film: The Mummy (1999)
10.00 Celebrity Juice Live **11.00** Family
 Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** @
 Entertainment Tonight: Bevvitt! Return to
 the Shieldlands **2.05** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2
 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible
 Bachelor **1.55** A Touch of Frost **3.55**
 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **6.00**
 Midsummer Murders **10.40** A Touch of
 Frost **11.35** A Touch of Frost: Doctor in
 the House **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30**
 Teleshopping

ITV4
11.40 The Car Chasers **12.40** Pawn Stars
1.35 Storage Wars **2.30** Storage Wars:
 Texas **3.30** Film: Gunsunko (1953) **5.10**
 Film: Apocalypse Now **7.15** Film:
 Police Academy: Officers Under Fire (1989)
9.00 An Audience with Billy
 Connolly **10.35** Film: Magnum Force
 (1973) **12.15** Film: Born to Raise Hell
 (2010) **2.30** Hogan's Heroes **3.30**
 Teleshopping

ITV5
11.40 Baby Daddy **12.00** New Girl **1.00**
 How I Met Your Mother **2.00** Film: Big
 (1988) **4.05** The Goldbergs **5.30**
 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang
 Theory **9.00** Film: Max Payne (2008)
11.00 Gogglebox **1.10** Tatfoot Fives **2.15**
 First Met Your Mother **3.05** Gogglebox
4.00 Doc: Trust the B* **4.30** In Apartment
 2.30 **4.20** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Identified Flying Oddball (1979)
1.00 Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.40**
 Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **4.40** The
 Phantom (1996) **6.40** Home Alone 4
 (2003) **8.40** The 40 Year-Old Virgin
 (2011) Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg
 and Nick Frost **11.05** Rush (2013) Fact-
 based motor racing drama, with Chris
 Hemsworth and Daniel Bruhl **1.25** The
 Haunting in Connecticut (2009) **3.30**

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Boy Next Door, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A romantic novelist is attracted to her next door neighbour. When he is murdered, she finds her infatuation makes her the prime suspect. Crime thriller, with Dina Meyer and Woody Jeffreys. (2008)

TUESDAY

The Wrong Woman, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A suburban policeman's wife is falsely accused of murdering a prostitute in a car park and finds herself in a legal nightmare when evidence pointing to her guilt mounts up. Drama, starring Danica McKeller and Jonathan Bennett. (2013)

WEDNESDAY

Wedding Daze, BBC1, 11.45pm

A man is planning to marry his girlfriend, but she drops dead while he is in the middle of proposing. One year later, he is still searching for a way to overcome his depression, and hits on the idea of spontaneously asking a waitress to be his wife. Amazingly, she agrees, but the news dismays his friends and family. Romantic comedy, starring Jason Biggs, Isla Fisher and Joe Pantoliano. (2006)



Night Train to Lisbon, Friday, BBC2, 10.30pm

THURSDAY

Garage Sale Mystery II: All That Glitters, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when the owner of a storage unit is murdered. Crime drama based on Suzi Weinert's novel, starring Lori Loughlin. (2014)

FRIDAY

Night Train to Lisbon, BBC2, 10.30pm

An academic impulsively pursues a woman he met by chance, leading to him abandoning his job to follow her to Lisbon. On the journey, he reads a book belonging to her, and is inspired by the philosopher who wrote it. He sets out to track down everyone who knew the author to discover the story of his life. Drama based on Pascal Mercier's novel, starring Jeremy Irons and Melanie Laurent. (2013)

Family must learn new ways to communicate

Take a Bafta-winning writer, an A-list cast and a hit Israeli drama, shake them all up and what do you get?

The BBC's new six-part series **The A Word** (BBC1, 9pm), it seems.

It's been inspired by Yellow Peppers, a show that went down a storm in its native country and was described by the critic of the Israel Today newspaper as being "nothing like anything you've ever seen on television" when it first aired in 2011.

It has now been adapted for a British audience by Peter Bowker, the acclaimed scribe behind such shows as *Marvellous*, *Eric* and *Ernie*, *Occupation* and *Blackpool*.

He also penned the recent take on John Lanchester's novel *Capital*, which didn't receive the same kind of critical success – but he promises to be back on form with this offering.

The story focuses on the Hughes family, a seemingly ordinary clan living within a tight-knit Lake District community.

At the heart of the story is Joe, a five-year-old boy who loves listening to

his father's punk records over and over again, but his inability to connect to the world around worries his parents.

Eventually, Joe is diagnosed with autism, and his loved ones realise that if they want him to develop his ability to communicate and interact with the outside world, they must alter their own approach to life.

Bowker is certainly the ideal person to tell the story, having spent 14 years teaching children with learning difficulties and autism before becoming a professional writer.

"We have the opportunity here to make something funny, tough, realistic and inventive about contemporary family life and autism," he claims. "In a society where imperfection increasingly comes with blame attached, it seems timely to look at how autism is regarded both within a family and the wider community – and to give some insight into how that experience might be for the child on the autism spectrum."

"It's a drama full of ideas – about parenthood, about disability, about

communication, about community – and will emphatically engage an audience whatever their experience of the subject."

Many people will think they are familiar with autism if they have seen the film *Rain Man*, but there are lots of forms of the condition.

Here, Joe doesn't have any special skills; in fact, for much of the time he appears to be completely normal, there are a just a few key behaviours that mark him out.

"The *A Word* tackles parts of life that aren't always easy and Peter has drawn on the absolute highs, lows and challenges so many families face when a child is different to other children, in a beautiful way," says Polly Hill, the BBC's controller of drama. "With Peter's award-winning track record and history of drama tackling tough subjects, *The A Word* is set to be a rollercoaster of a series which is ultimately an uplifting, honest and human drama for BBC One."

Christopher Eccleston, Lee Ingleby, Morven Christie and six-year-old newcomer Max Vento head the cast.



Christopher Eccleston stars in *The A Word*, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme

ITV, 9pm

Davina travels to the Costa Rican jungle, which is one of the wettest and most humid places on earth, but is a habitat in which animals thrive and home to around 500,000 species. She learns about the ways in which creatures including sloths, poison dart frogs, tarantulas, tapirs, fer-de-lance vipers, common basilisks and spider monkeys have adapted to the conditions, before spending a night high up in the treetops of the rainforest – where a lightning striking directly overhead forces an abrupt change of plans. Last in the series.

The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story

BBC2, 9pm

Public opinion turns against prosecutor Marcia Clark as she is pilloried for her appearance, while more missteps by the investigating detectives during their searches for evidence are revealed – though defence lawyer Johnnie Cochrane has a damaging secret of his own. Meanwhile, the Increasing TV coverage of the trial is bringing pressure to bear on all those concerned. Fact-based crime drama about the trial of OJ Simpson. Cuba Gooding Jr and Sarah Paulson star.

TUESDAY

One Born Every Minute

Channel 4, 9pm

It's been a surprise hit for Channel 4, and one that doesn't appear to be running out of steam just yet. But why has *One Born Every Minute* been such a success? While other docusoaps fall by the wayside, this one continues to win new fans – perhaps because the stories it follows are so incredibly moving. Expect more of the same this time around as the 'action' moves to Liverpool Women's Hospital – and seeing as it has the largest and busiest maternity unit in Europe, there should be plenty of enthralling tales to tell.

WEDNESDAY

Employable Me

BBC2, 9pm

When Channel 4 hired the first continuity announcer with Tourette's syndrome a few months ago, it proved that nothing should stand in the way of employable folks with afflictions. In this new series, cameras follow some of the UK's job seekers who prove that having Tourette's or autism should not make them unemployable. Episode one focuses on 52-year-old

Paul who has a severe case of Tourette's, but is determined to succeed at work again, and with the assistance of scientists, uncovers amazing skills. We also meet Brett, a 34-year-old with autism, whose true hidden genius is revealed by a world-renowned expert. A moving, occasionally funny and often uplifting addition to the schedules.

THURSDAY

Line of Duty

BBC2, 9pm

Jed Mercurio's highly acclaimed, multi-award-winning crime thriller is back for a new run. Once again, it will follow the work of the AC-12 team as they investigated another possible case of wrongdoing by their fellow police officers. And while the core cast remains the same, guests actors are brought in to play the newcomers. This time it's Daniel Mays who will be taking a starring role, stepping into the shoes previously worn by Lennie James and Keeley Hawes. He plays Sgt

Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Danny Waldron, leader of an armed response unit who is being investigated after a suspect was shot dead during an incident.

FRIDAY

Britain's Whales

ITV, 8pm

Part one of two. More than 25 kinds of whales and dolphins and over 30 different sharks either visit or live in British waters. Off the coast of Ireland, Ben Fogle comes face to face with a pod of humpbacks and witnesses dolphins working with the whales to hunt down their prey. Sharks are much harder to find, so using the biggest shark bait available he and co-presenter Ellie Harrison prepare to head out to sea.

Boomers

BBC1, 9pm

There's something inherently funny about campsites, as the Carry On crew proved in the late 1960s. In 2016, it seems there's little danger of the genre being forgotten either, thanks to the first episode of this returning series. Philip Jackson (so good in Caitlin Moran sitcom *Raised in Wolves*), Alison Steadman, Russ Abbot, Stephanie Beacham, Paula Wilcox and James Smith make up the trio of newly retired couples who take a break from the Norfolk resort of Thurnemouth and go camping.

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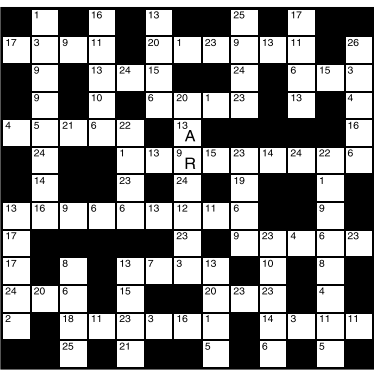
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BRAIN GYM No.369

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Q	M	V	N	A	T	R	D	G	H	Z	L	F
O	B	P	W	S	X	E	K	Y	C	I	J	U

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

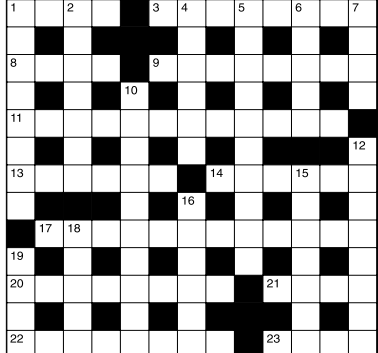
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. See 6 Down
- 3. Still on a different mount (8)
- 8. Put some indication on foreign coin (4)
- 9. He must have been willing (8)
- 11. What retiring ladies assume (5-7)
- 13. Ceremonial trial arranged about the middle of January (6)
- 14. A section of the foot soldiers should be! (6)
- 17. Protracted, like a tooth removed years ago (4,5,3)
- 20. Arranging notes about the position of those making a film (2,3,3)
- 21. See 23 Across
- 22. One that's not self-supporting in dilapidated pit areas (8)
- 23 & 21Ac. Pastureland, having potential, can be hired out (8)

Down

- 1. Any miser would upset Roman Catholic retreat (8)
- 2. It's properly erected, honest! (7)
- 4. Those people embracing alternative abstract idea (6)
- 5. Stop press: The French Trial Report (6,4)
- 6 & 1Ac. Awkwardly placed, as many a noodle may be (2,3,4)
- 7. The usual thing found in Rangoon or Mandalay (4)
- 10. They murder fifty aliens outside (10)
- 12. Pure description of one recovered from measles? (8)
- 15. Put oneself out to cause affliction (7)
- 16. Stripe for the serviceman (6)
- 18. The boulder decapitated a river creature (5)
- 19. Confine the cash manufacturer without any hesitation (4)



Quick Clues:

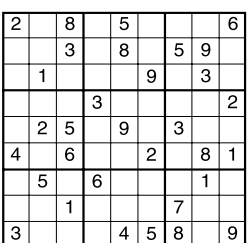
Across

- 1. Frenzy (4)
- 3. Terrifying (8)
- 8. So (4)
- 9. Divert (8)
- 11. Immense (12)
- 13. Seduce (6)
- 14. Connect (6)
- 17. Co-operate (4,4,4)
- 20. Muddle (8)
- 21. Solid (4)
- 22. Petition (8)
- 23. Sell (4)

Down

- 1. Kept (8)
- 2. Epicure (7)
- 4. Hatful (6)
- 5. Withdrawal (10)
- 6. Fragile (5)
- 7. Quote (4)
- 10. Reckonable (10)
- 12. Protected (8)
- 15. Disturb (7)
- 16. Overrun (6)
- 18. Separate (5)
- 19. Island (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	8	2	1	6	7	9	3	5
9	3	7	4	2	5	8	1	6
6	5	1	3	9	8	7	4	2
2	1	5	7	4	3	6	9	8
8	7	4	6	1	9	2	5	3
3	6	9	8	5	2	1	7	4
7	2	6	9	3	4	5	8	1
1	9	3	8	5	6	4	2	7
5	4	8	2	7	1	3	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Close the gap; 9 Uniform; 10 Delta; 11 Elder; 12 Terrace; 13 Scales; 15 Chilli; 18 Ruminous; 20 Appal; 22 Exact; 23 Riotous; 24 Nobody's fool. Down: 2 Laird; 3 Scourge; 4 Tomato; 5 Eider; 6 All hail; 7 Queer Street; 8 Materialist; 14 Agitato; 16 Head off; 17 Osprey; 19 Outdo; 21 Photo. QUICK - Across: 1 Tempestuous; 9 Painter; 10 Prior; 11 Obese; 12 Termite; 13 Treaty; 15 Effete; 18 Neglect; 20 Dodge; 22 Trait; 23 Islamic; 24 Belligerent. Down: 2 Elite; 3 Patient; 4 Sprite; 5 Upper; 6 Utilise; 7 Opportunity; 8 Irreverence; 14 Engrave; 16 Fiddler; 17 String; 19 Extol; 21 Demon.

Thinking space



Quiz

- 1. Which company designed the Merlin engine of the Spitfire and Hurricane?
- 2. What is the name of the lowest region on the Earth's surface?
- 3. Which nut is obtained from the areca palm?
- 4. In the Old Testament, who was Jacob's older twin brother?
- 5. Of which sea creature is the argonaut a type?
- 6. Which number Ivan was 'the Terrible'?
- 7. Which sea touches the shores of Denmark, Norway and Holland?
- 8. In Greek mythology, what hung on an oak tree at Colchis?
- 9. Which actor wrote Snakes and Ladders in 1978?
- 10. Of which creature is Psittacus erithacus a variety?

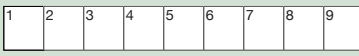
Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 April 23; 2 Inner Hebrides; 3 David Hockney; 4 Chickenpox; 5 St Francis of Assisi; 6 Skin; 7 Violin; 8 Christopher Timothy; 9 Nevada; 10 A degree.
- Niner: CAMBRIDGE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2346735 gives a ballet company,
71448 gives an orchestra,
1591 gives an opera.



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- 7 MAY • IL DIVO LIVE!
- 14 MAY • HAWORTH 1940s WEEKEND
- 27 MAY • CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
- 4 JUN • BEAMISH GEORGIAN FAIR
- 11 JUN • QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CRUISE & WINDSOR
- 25 JUN • CHATSWORTH FLORABUJANCE
- 9 JUL • HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW + 15 GRAND PRIX
- AUG • EDINBURGH TATTOO (MANY DATES)
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4 JUN

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10 SEP

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22, 29 APR	4, 18, 25 APR	7, 28 AUG
20, 27 MAY	9, 15, 23, 30 MAY	11 SEP
17, 24 JUN	6, 13, 20, 27 JUN	• Visits to Exeter, Plymouth & Dartmouth instead of Exeter & Dawlish
22, 29 JUL	4, 11, 18, 25 JUL	
5, 12, 19, 26 AUG	1, 8, 15, 22, 29 AUG	

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At your convenience

The new-look Blue Ginger in Huntington, Cannock, has added spice since reopening. **MARK SHIPP** gives it a try

ON walking into the Blue Ginger, Natalie Imbruglia was playing. Not in person, obviously. I wouldn't want to give you the wrong impression.

And I wouldn't mislead you as to the quality of this restaurant, either. In fact, since dining at the new-look premises, I've often thought: Wishing I Was There.

Needless to say I was torn over what to eat. There was one big mistake, though. Well, a minor quibble, but we'll come to that later.

The restaurant, in Stafford Road, Huntington, reopened before the end of last year following a revamp that saw most of it swallowed up by a new convenience store.

Owner Abdul Ali, who has run the restaurant for four-and-a-half years, welcomes the smaller premises and its new look.

Homely

By his own admission, it was too big before, so by reducing its capacity makes it easier for him and his 10-strong staff to manage as well as allowing for a cosier and more homely dining experience.

I can only agree, and the pleasant decor and ambient lighting adds to welcoming environment. On entering, there is a plush reception area/bar with the whole restaurant, catering for more than 80 diners, sprawled out in front. It's well laid out too, so the owners can feel a sense of pride and achievement at a job well done.

The quality of fare has not been diminished, either.

Customers are liking what they see, with many old regulars coming back – and introducing newcomers to its delights. One look at



Outside Blue Ginger, Stafford Road, Huntington

online reviews show that Blue Ginger is making a favourable impression.

The experienced chefs have come up with a novel menu at Blue Ginger, with speciality dishes, fish and seafood offerings. Some items blend other cuisines, while vegetarians are also catered for.

One highly recommended dish is the tellapia delight, filet of fish, medium spiced and pan fried with garlic, ginger, lemon juice and a hint of fresh mint.

Signature dishes include khodu ghost and desi lasagne, while the fusion appetisers include quorn chatt, with house specialities ca-

tering for non-meat eaters, like a mixed meat relish and paneer tikka masala.

It began well with a mussels starter for myself, particularly as the sweet and sour sauce that accompanied it among the best I've tasted. My other half chose the vegetable samosas – but was not expecting as much as she was given.

The mains I had trouble choosing from, but in the end I opted for exotic salmon. This didn't come dressed in some tropical outfit, but it did specify it came with spring rolls. I didn't get them.

But I didn't make a fuss as overall I wasn't

disappointed by the meal itself. I had with it a bullet naan, which I had pontificated over beforehand. It sounded hot, should I go for it?

I was informed it didn't quite have the bang I was probably expecting, and Abdul was right. It was the perfect sidekick, and the whole dish met my satisfaction, as my empty plate demonstrated. Desserts would have been one step too far, though.

The tried and trusted makhani chicken was enjoyed by the other half, too and it compared favourably with dishes tried elsewhere.

Blue Ginger is open seven days a week from 5.30pm. Call 01543 500300 or 502376.



The restaurant's interiors is well laid out



The reception area at Blue Ginger

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It also has a rear garden and two allocated parking spaces. Call The Property Shop on (01884) 444645 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk website.



Modern family detached home in quiet cul-de-sac



NUMBER 1, Windmill View, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, is a modern detached family home situated on a fabulous plot within a development of just five executive-style family homes. It is for sale through Halls at £330,000.

It comprises four bedrooms and a family bathroom and en-suite off the master bedroom. There are three ground floor reception rooms and a fitted kitchen diner with utility room and cloakroom. The property offers privacy being fully enclosed with off-road parking and detached double garage. The gardens are beautifully presented, low maintenance and fully enclosed. The brick paved driveway enables parking for up to four vehicles.

Contact Halls on 01562 820880 or visit www.hallsgb.com website.



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OLDBURY, Tifford Road £895 pcm+ Fees
A very well presented, spacious semi detached period property perfect for a large family refurbished to a high standard. Briefly comprising 2 reception rooms, good size kitchen, utility, downstairs w.c. & shower room, 5 good size bedrooms, study area / dressing area, first floor shower & family bathroom, garage and off road parking for 3 cars. EPC: E



QUARRY BANK, Thorns Road £895 pcm+ Fees
A superb extended traditional detached home close to Merry Hill and local train stations. Featuring a large lounge, separate dining room, country style kitchen with range cooker, 3 double bedrooms, walk in shower room, extensive rear garden with ample parking and driveway to the front. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, St Giles Close £750 pcm+ Fees
A modern unfurnished detached house situated in a quiet cul-de-sac close to Rowley Academy comprising of: Through lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with jacuzzi bath, 3 bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking, rear garden. EPC: TBC



WITHYMOOR, Aldeford Drive £725 pcm+ Fees
Well presented semi detached house situated on this popular estate. Occupying a quiet cul de sac location, the property has ground floor accommodation to briefly comprise entrance hall with door leading through to an attractive lounge with breakfast kitchen to the rear. To the 1st floor there are 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom, whilst to the outside there are gardens to front and rear. In addition, there is a garage and drive providing off road parking, and the property benefits



CRADLEY HEATH, Sherbourne Road £675 pcm+ Fees
A traditional semi detached home in this very quiet residential area. Featuring 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c. 3 bedrooms, bathroom suite with shower, well laid out bedroom and family bathroom on the 1st floor and master bedroom on the top floor. The property also benefits from rear garden and parking to the rear. This property must be viewed to fully appreciate. EPC: E



DUDLEY, Ivanhoe Street £650 pcm+ Fees
Hicks Hadley are delighted to market this well presented terraced 3 bedroom property. Featuring on the lower level, a modern kitchen/diner and reception room, ground level has 2 reception rooms and main entrance hall, 2 bedrooms and family bathroom on the 1st floor and master bedroom (with conversion) on the top floor. The property also benefits from rear garden and parking to the rear. This property must be viewed to fully appreciate. EPC: E



ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Vale Road £650 pcm+ Fees
An opportunity to acquire a well maintained traditional three bedroom detached property situated in a popular residential location in a quiet cul-de-sac close to local schools, amenities and road links. Comprises of a large living room, fitted kitchen with a double range cooker, downstairs w.c. 2 double & 1 single bedroom/study. Bathroom with shower, driveway/garage. A lovely property, not to be missed. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Clifton Road £625 pcm+ Fees
A property not to be missed! Set within a quiet cul-de-sac, this immaculate semi detached property, comprising of: 2 double bedrooms, good sized lounge, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway parking for 2 cars, well maintained rear garden. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Briery Close £595 pcm+ Fees
Recently refurbished is this 3 bedroom semi detached family home in this popular residential area. Briefly comprising of 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, front & rear garden. On road parking. Ideal for Timberbee Primary School. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Spring Street £595 pcm+ Fees
An unfurnished semi detached house a short distance from local shops, number 9 bus route and Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, fitted dining kitchen, lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, garage and driveway parking, front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Wright Street £595 pcm+ Fees
A stunning unfurnished or furnished to suit 2 bedroom cottage style mid terrace house which has recently been refurbished to a very high standard comprising of: Lounge with feature fireplace, fabulous fitted kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, new gas central heating system. On road parking in this very quiet location central to Halesowen. Not to be missed! EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court £575 pcm+ Fees
Contemporary living in Halesowen. This 1st floor spacious apartment above the archway, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, double glazing, open plan living room/fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Milverton Close £575 pcm+ Fees
A modern furnished to suit 2 bedroom ground floor flat in this very popular residential area comprising of: large lounge, 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, parking space. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+ Fees
Part furnished. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Pettford Street £525 pcm+ Fees
Located in a very popular area, within walking distance to local shops and buses, is this unfurnished modern semi detached house, comprising of: 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, cosy lounge, downstairs WC, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: E



DUDLEY, Southgate Way £499 pcm+ Fees
A stunning and spacious well presented furnished to suit 1st floor apartment featuring 2 bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm+ Fees
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment having spacious lounge, refitted kitchen with integrated oven and hob, 3 bedrooms, refitted bathroom and newly fitted carpets. The apartment has a garage and gardens to front and rear, full double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D



NETHERTON, Mousesweet Lane £450 pcm+ Fees
A modern style furnished to suit ground floor apartment in superbly convenient location in a quiet cul-de-sac featuring entrance hallway, lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, rear access to private courtyard, driveway for 2 cars, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road £395 pcm+ Fees
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town centre and Old Hill train station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D



KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road £350 pcm+ Fees
A fully re-furnished 1st floor studio apartment comprising of A combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, white bathroom suite with shower. Gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC



LYE, High Street £330 pcm+ Fees
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC

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- EPC RATING: D

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- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS

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Cambridge Crescent, Edgbaston



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- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
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Cheshire Road, Smethwick



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- OPEN PLAN LARGE THROUGH LOUNGE
- SPACIOUS PROPERTY, OFFERING POTENTIAL
- EPC RATING: D

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- EPC RATING: D

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Titford Road, Oldbury



- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- MODERN KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: E

£124,950

Barnwood Road, Wolverhampton



- THREE BEDROOM END TERRACE
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- KITCHEN / DINER
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- DECORATED TO A TASTEFUL STANDARD
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- EPC RATING: C

Offers in the Region Of £124,950

Sinope, Sherborne Street, Birmingham



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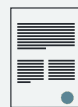
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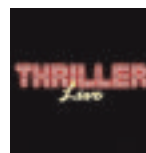
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- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
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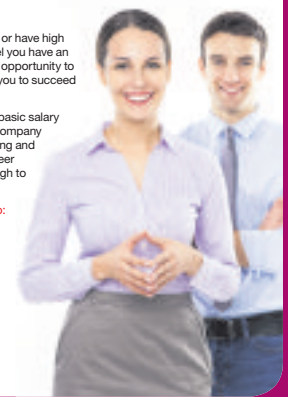
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Refreshed and new model in i20 range

By Matt Joy

Hyundai's popular i20 hatchback has been refreshed for 2016 with a downsized petrol engine and a new model in the range.

Forget those fancy European brands you think you know; when it comes to making a solid private purchase, the Hyundai i20 is about as sensible as you can be – and that's a good thing. Smart, well-equipped, good value and offering a slick driving experience, it's hard to fault, but that hasn't stopped Hyundai giving the i20 an update for 2016.

Most importantly, it's now available with a brand-new three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine, in two power outputs with impressive claims for fuel consumption and performance. Equipment upgrades have been made across the range while there's a whole new model too; the i20 Active is designed to be a compact crossover, with a 20mm increase in ride height, unique bumpers, roof rails and a rear spoiler.

The standard i20 is a neat and inoffensive piece of design, but in the new Active form, there's a little bit more going on. The extra detail in the front bumper gives the front end some additional presence, as does the increased ride height. It's not as distinct from its conventional sibling as some rival offerings, but it will snare some buyers that find the regular five-door too conventional.

Hyundai's image has also come a remarkable way in a matter of years. Its badge carries as much weight as many European rivals and in cars like the i20 and Santa Fe, it is producing cars with distinction.

Comfortable

There's no sheet metal changes for 2016, so the i20 keeps its exterior and interior dimensions. Those seated up front should find it easy to get comfortable. Although the seats aren't huge, they offer useful support and the low-set dashboard means the view out is good. In the rear, it's a little tighter for space with headroom at a premium for those near six feet tall, but legroom is good for the class as is the boot space.

While the Active model has suspension raised by 20mm, its effect on the i20's behaviour is minimal. The ride quality is good on the vast majority of surfaces, with only particularly poor surfaces creating significant intrusion into the cabin. On the flip side, the handling is safe and secure if unremarkable, but the steering is light and accurate plus the raised ride height doesn't make the i20 Active suddenly heel over in corners.

What really marks out the 2016 i20 however is that new powerplant. Three-cylinder turbo engines used to be the preserve of Japanese Kei cars but this Hyundai offering is a gem. The on-paper performance might seem modest, but this belies how perky it feels. It will rev quite happily without significant engine noise, but better still is the generous torque which allows you to be lazy with the gearshifts and still make good progress. Despite that, the official figures are impressive with 58.9mpg combined and 110g/km of CO₂, while the 120PS version feels no quicker on the road.

Go for the i20 Active model and you get 17-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, DAB radio and rear parking sensors for your £15,225, and this comes with the 100PS 1.0-litre turbo engine only. The regular i20 starts at £10,995 for the S model and even this comes with electrically adjusted and heated door mirrors, height adjustable driver's seat, reach and rake adjustable steering wheel and an MP3-compatible stereo with USB and auxiliary inputs. The top-spec Premium Nav SE with the top diesel engine is only £17,700, so the i20 is impressive value across the range.

If the i20 Active is big enough to suit your lifestyle then it makes an exceptionally strong case as a private purchase. It's excellent value for money whatever specification you choose, while the Active model not only combines the best engine choice but also adds in a little more ruggedness. It's an ideal first car while older folk will find the raised driving position a useful boon too. There are more sparkling drives in the class but for many drivers this is of lesser importance than value and equipment.

This car summed up in a single word: Surprising

If this car was a movie, you'd be impressed beyond your expectations, but also tempted to keep it a secret.

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- magic seats
- 15" alloys
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- 17" alloys
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- rear parking camera
- rain sensing wipers
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- front & rear parking sensors
- cruise control with speed limiter
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CIVIC 1.8 SPORT 5DR

OUR PRICE **£15,999**

SAVE **£4,536**

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- 17" sport alloys
- black roof lining
- privacy glass
- sports grille
- body coloured spoiler
- climate control
- cruise control
- front & rear parking sensors
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- rear parking camera

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OUR PRICE **£16,999**

SAVE **£5,351**

Garmin® Sat Nav Optional £500
Cost New £22,350



- 17" alloys
- climate control (a/c)
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- reversing camera
- front fog lights
- privacy glass
- DAB radio
- 2 x USB connectors
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CIVIC 1.6 SR DIESEL 5DR

OUR PRICE **£18,999**

SAVE **£5,316**

Cost New £24,315



- 16" alloys
- cruise control
- climate control (a/c)
- DAB radio
- auto lights & wipers
- leather upholstery
- glass roof
- privacy glass
- front fog lights
- heated front seats
- Honda Connect System with Garmin® sat nav
- front & rear parking sensors with reversing camera

CIVIC TOURER 1.6 SR DIESEL

OUR PRICE **£18,999**

SAVE **£7,616**

Cost New £26,615



- 18" alloys
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- climate control (a/c)
- DAB radio
- auto lights & wipers
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TESTED

Hyundai i20 Active 1.0 100PS, £15,225

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit producing 99bhp and 126lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Five-speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 109mph, 0-62mph in 10.9 seconds

Economy: 58.9mpg combined

Emissions: 110g/km of CO₂

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13 13 CORSA SE 1.4 5dr Silver Lake 20,000 Miles	£700	£7,495	£6,795
13 13 CORSA SXI 1.4 3dr Flame Red 23,000 Miles 17" Alloys & VXR Styling Pack	£1,000	£7,495	SOLD
13 63 CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3dr Sovereign Silver Only 8,000 Miles	£1,000	£7,895	£6,895
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Evolution of the Kia Optima as it further advances

The fourth-generation Optima has a modern, new exterior, a bold interior design with more space for occupants, new technologies and a wide choice of efficient powertrains.

The new model offers greater refinement and improved ride and handling over the outgoing model, while retaining the sporty image that has helped Optima become one of Kia's best-selling models worldwide.

The Kia Optima plays an important role in the Kia Motors Europe product line-up, introducing the brand to an increasing number of new customers.

Since the third-generation model launched in 2011, with its distinctive look, high-quality interior and high-tech image, the Optima has offered buyers something fresh and different in the D-segment.

The all-new Optima's evolutionary new look was designed to be functional and sporty, with exterior dimensions that are marginally longer, taller and wider. These changes enable a roomier and more comfortable cabin, with more head-, shoulder- and rear-seat leg-room and greater cargo capacity.

This model is the most aerodynamic Optima to date, with drag reduced from 0.3 to 0.29 Cd.

The all-new Kia Optima will be available in Europe in a choice of nine colours, with alloy wheels ranging from 16-in to 18in diameter.

The material quality of the all-new Optima's cabin is significantly improved over the outgoing model, with a far higher proportion of soft-touch materials, as well as cloth and leather trim in natural tones.

Tasteful metallic accents throughout the cabin add a higher quality ambience to the interior.

The larger interior and exterior dimensions ensure that the all-new model is the most practical, spacious and comfortable. Cargo space has grown from 505 to 510 litres (VDA), with the under-floor storage area and a wider boot opening adding greater practicality.

High-strength

It features a uniquely engineered body which combines more high-strength materials than ever before, resulting in even higher standards of crash safety.

While passive safety is improved, the new model is also equipped with a series of high-tech active and autonomous safety features, and Kia's engineers have targeted a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating throughout the Optima's development programme.

Kia's vehicle stability management is fitted as standard, ensuring stability under braking and cornering by controlling the car's electronic stability control and electric motor-driven power steering if it detects a loss of traction.

The Optima is available with a wide range of optional active hazard-avoidance technologies, depending on market.

Improving ride and handling was a top priority for Kia's dynamic development teams, with a focus on delivering the ride comfort and stability customers expect from a D-segment sedan, while achieving the level of agility promised by the car's sportier appearance.

The all-new Optima debuts a number of new, advanced on-board technologies to improve usability, comfort and convenience.

The touchscreen infotainment system is paired with a six-speaker audio system as standard.

A powerful Harman Kardon premium sound system, featuring 10 speakers, an external amplifier and Clari-Fi MP3 restoration technology, is also available as an option.

The all-new Kia Optima will offer the company's unique seven-year, 150,000km warranty as standard.

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Still on the ball – former Wolves player Andy Mutch



Andy Mutch during his Wolves days



Steve Bull and Andy Mutch reunited for a fans question and answer session



Goalscorers Andy Mutch and Robbie Dennison celebrate as they lift the Sherpa Van Trophy back in 1988

So Mutch to remember of Andy's 30 golden years

IT'S 30 years since the union between Wolves and striker Andy Mutch began – but on his first day he managed to turn up an hour late.

The Scouser netted 96 times in 289 games over a seven-year spell at the club after joining Wolves on February 22, 1986.

The popular forward, who was inducted into Wolves' Hall of Fame in 2013, is best remembered for a goal-laden partnership up front with club legend Steve Bull. But there was no sign of Bull when Mutch rocked up at Molineux, after a £5,000 fee had been agreed with non-league Southport.

Mishap

He was coming to a club that had won all of England's major honours at a time when they were heading towards their lowest ebb – relegation into the bottom tier of the Football League.

Becoming a full-time footballer in the process was all weighing heavily on Mutch as he drove down the M62 to put pen to paper, landing elsewhere initially after a mishap!

He said: "My mind was just racing about what was ahead of me and Manchester was not the place I needed to be on this particular day!"

"I'd missed the turn off for Wolverhampton and had to re-route, so I turned up about an hour late to sign. It wasn't the best start to my career at Wolves."

Mutch's dream of making the game his living had come true, though, having fallen out of the professional ranks after starting out with Everton.

Wolves boss Sammy Chapman spotted him and

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Birch

"I had the time of my life with Wolves, nothing else ever came close. It was a great ride to be on."

paid a small fee to take him from the Sandgrounders, where he'd made his senior debut. Mutch said: "I was a schoolboy at Everton, at a time when the club was very successful. It didn't work but, when I was 18, they asked me to come back. I played 18 games for the reserve team.

"I left again and went to Southport, who were part-time and in the Northern Premier League, and got a day job delivering fridges.

"We'd played at Kidderminster Harriers in the FA Trophy, it was a replay after we'd drew 1-1 at our place. We lost 6-1 there, but I got the goal!

"Sammy was the Wolves manager, at the time, and was there watching the game. I'd scored lots of goals for Southport, so it wasn't a surprise that someone had come in for me.

"What I was actually getting paid when I went to Wolves was buttons. It was probably less than I earned playing football and working.

"But Wolves were a club that was synonymous to

me. I used to watch 'Kick Off' with Gerald Sinstadt as a kid and they were always on television."

It was, by no means, an easy time to be a Wolves player with the club heading for relegation from the old Third Division under the disastrous ownership of the Bhatti brothers.

Wolves went through three managers in his first year, but settled on Graham Turner in the October who would lead them to two promotions.

One of his first acts was to sign Bull and Andy Thompson from Albion in a double deal, with Bull and Mutch spearheading the rise through the divisions. Mutch scored the first goal, with Robbie Dennison getting the second, at Wembley as Wolves beat Burnley 2-0 in the 1988 Sherpa Van Trophy final.

Trophy

"Graham Turner brought a new type of professionalism into the club. He always knew how to get the best out of me. I always rated him as the best manager I've ever played under."

Turner spent seven-and-a-half years at the helm before making way for Graham Taylor in 1994 and sold Mutch the year before his departure.

Premier League new-boys Swindon Town came calling for a £250,000 move in August 1993, meaning Mutch played in the top-flight during his career.

He would go on to play for Wigan Athletic and Stockport County before dropping back into non-league.

The 52-year-old said: "I never wanted to leave Wolves, but I got the feeling from the club that they thought it was time for me to move on. I had the time of my life with Wolves, nothing else ever came close. It was a great ride to be on."

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Sending off ends Yeltz challenge

Halesowen Town 0 Salford City 1
A STRONG Salford side kept up their promotion challenge with a narrow win. Both teams struck the underside of the crossbar in a fast and furious first half.

Ashley Parsons-Smith flashed a volley across the Salford goal in the 21st minute. When Salford failed to clear a corner a minute later Kaiman Anderson rifled a shot off the underside of the crossbar.

Home goalkeeper Dan Platt made a terrific save to beat away Richard Allen's 26th minute shot and just seconds later Allen fired over the bar.

Just before the interval, Salford's James Poole collected a long ball but his shot on the turn cannoned off the underside of the crossbar.

Halesowen's good work was undone midway through the second half when Allen smashed home the Salford winner from a tight angle in the 64th minute.

Hopes were effectively ended just two minutes later when Yeltz defender Asa Charlton was shown a straight red card for a challenge on Salford skipper Chris Lynch.

There were few more chances, although Anderson and substitute George Forsyth both went close for Halesowen.

Blyth Spartans 0 Halesowen Town 1
Halesowen stunned league leaders Blyth after Tyree Clarke snatched the winner with a first-half breakaway. The on-loan Stourbridge striker upset the form book and also bagged his second Halesowen goal in two games.

The Yeltz shrugged off their long journey to force several early corners but top-of-the-table Blyth's Alex Nicholson made a good run in the 21st minute before fluffing his shot.

Arran Wearmouth went close twice and had a penalty appeal turned down before Yeltz struck in the 35th minute.

Cricket coaching sessions scheduled at Easter Academy

HALESOWEN Cricket Club have revealed details of a special Easter Academy for youth players as they look towards the future.

Youngsters are being urged to join the project on April 8 and 9 at the club in Grange Road, Halesowen.

Sessions will be held between 10am and 3pm each day.

Carl Bust, Halesowen's head of youth cricket, will be putting the youngsters through their paces with batting, bowling, fielding and wicket keeping.

He said: "There will also be an opportunity for some one-to-one coaching where appropriate on the field and practice areas."

"We've had a long winter programme with the youngsters starting before Christmas and continuing through the winter."

"But the Easter Academy allows new players to join the club as well as cater for our talented county youngsters too."

The two-day course costs £35 and there is a one day version available at £20. Contact Bust via email cbricket-coach@gmail.com or the club direct.

Gethin sidelined for hometown bout

WALSALL'S Luke Paddock has local rival Martin Gethin firmly in his sights as he looks to pass his audition at the Town Hall this Saturday.

The super-lightweight duo seemed to be on a collision course with the pair slated to star on Black Country Boxing's 'Cool Hand & The Gang' bill this weekend.

However, a pulled chest muscle means Gethin has been sidelined and will instead take up a ring-side seat for the show with Paddock headlining. And, providing 'Cool Hand' comes through unscathed on Saturday, the Bloxwich boxer is relishing a proposed scrap with former world title contender Gethin. 'Paddock is in action over six

Boxing

against former Central area title contender Lee Connelly, while Halesowen's super middleweight Lennox 'Dangerous' Clarke faces Swindon's former Southern and IBF Inter-Continental champion Kelvin Young and Wednesfield's unbeaten warrior Des Bowater is up at super featherweight against capable livewire Chris Adaway.

Bowater's older brother Sid Bowater also gets himself up and running with a welterweight four-rounder against Brummie Dwayne Sheldon, in second pro outings for both fighters.

Midlands light middleweight champion and two-time British title challenger Jason Welborn, from Rowley Regis, features, while West Bromwich's Tom Stokes has seen his middleweight four-round affair with Stoke's scrapper Mark Till resurrected. Two debutants will switch sports from kickboxing, including Kyle Williams of Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton.

The 24-year-old will continue to teach at Fran Zuccala's Kickboxing and Gracie Jiu Jitsu club alongside his new calling.

Williams will turn over at bantam. Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 ringside, are still on sale from the Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

DEBUT TRY FOR YOUNG HAYNES

Old Halesonians 1st XV 20 Hinckley 31
THIS was seen as a deciding game for both teams in terms of promotion and play off positions.

The rearranged fixture saw both sides effected by having key players out through injury.

The home side were soon on the attack when Luke Smith kicked on for a chase and centre Carl Robinson won the race for an unconverted try. However, a big strong Hinckley side were soon in command with three converted tries on 10, 17 and 24 minutes to lead 5-21.

Hales battled to get back into the game but were not helped by injuries to Luke Smith and Chris Hooper, replaced by Andy Holloway and Dave Hadkiss. This disrupted the home side despite valiant efforts from player/coach Ben Hughes, Ben Barkley, Steve Leach and Max Macfarlane to stem the flow.

Further pressure forced a penalty for Hinckley. Hales tried hard to make amends with hooker Sam Jones and centre Robinson giving their all. Then on 38 minutes Hales pressure forced a penalty, converted by Oli Rayner for a half time score of 8-24.

After two minutes of the restart a Hinckley player collapsed a maul and left the field with a yellow card. Continued pressure by Hadkiss at 9 kept the team going forward for prop Matt Young to drive over a try, converted by Rayner for 15-24. This gave Hales incentive with attacking play by Hadkiss, Leach, Tom King and hooker Jones.

On 60 minutes a fight involving King and his opposite number reduced the teams by a player each. On 63 minutes Hinckley came back to score another try. The game seemed over with the visitors well in control but Hales would not give in, Hughes leading another charge and on 80 minutes young flanker Kieren Haynes was on the end of a drive with his debut try for the first team. With a final score of 20-31, Hinckley now sit top of the league. Old Hales travel to Lichfield next.

Old Hales 2nds 0 Luctonians 54

The second team travelled to Herefordshire to face Luctonians in a cup game only to come away with a disappointing heavy loss. Meanwhile, in the combined third and fourths team match Old Hales beat Warley 44-17.

Charlesworth bags British crown



Brandon Prince, Reuben, WAKO president Nev Wray, Raj Chripal and Haydon Lindley

LOWER Gornal fighter Reuben Charlesworth has been called up for England after adding to more crowns to his bulging collection.

The teenager retained his Mens -74kg British Kickboxing title for the third year in a row. Halesowen Martial Arts instructor Charlesworth who also is an unbeaten boxer, kept his British title in Birmingham against some of the best Points Fighting kickboxers the UK has to offer.

Charlesworth's elimination fights were all very close fought contests with the final against a very good fighter from Andover, Brandon Prince, who had already bagged a title in the weight below. The adversaries had only met

once before with Charlesworth victorious. This fight was very tense with each kick and punch felt around the arena.

A close fight, it went to sudden death after three hard rounds. Charlesworth sent out a body shot with the final shot to hold on to his British title.

The 18-year-old followed that up with a win in the Irish Open at the same weight.

He will have a local contingent cheering him on when he back in the ring on home soil to put his undefeated boxing skills on the line. He represents England - against Ireland - for the British Boxing Union in Brierley Hill on April 30.

Sponsors stay loyal to Heathens

CRADLEY Heathens continue to break club records - before the season has even started!

Just over a week before their opening meeting with Belle Vue at Monmore on March 28, club sponsorship has reached an all-time high on the back of record breaking season ticket sales.

Their main team sponsors Motor Market of Cradley Heath have pledged their support for another season through life-long supporters Adam and Dean Bridge.

Returning hero Ashley Morris visited the Motor Market premises, overlooking the housing estate site of the old Dudley Wood Stadium, at the weekend to thank the duo for their backing.

With new club partners joining - including Dr Rod Brooks and Dudley Stroke Association - boss Will Pottinger has paid tribute to those who have stepped forward to back the club.

"What people may forget is that the club's future was very uncertain just a few months ago," he said. "It was a tough time for everyone at the club, but credit must be given to the management team for sticking by the team and turning things on its head."

"Sponsorship and the commercial side of things are a massively important part of modern day speedway. In any sport nowadays, you simply cannot rely on the entrance admission money alone because costs are greater than ever."

"While it's always good to welcome new sponsors on board, at the same time it's great and very reassuring when we're able to keep sponsors and club partners year after year. It gives you a solid foundation. We're very fortunate at the Heathens because we've got some fantastic title team sponsors in Motor Market Ltd, who are now our longest serving sponsors and we're delighted to team up with them again."

Two matches, two points for Glassboys

Grantham 2, Stourbridge 2
STOURBRIDGE came from two goals down to grab a precious point in their push for a play-off place on Tuesday night.

Lee Shaw scored twice to put the hosts in front but Glassboys hit back through Karl Hawley and Dan Scarr.

Despite letting two points slip from their grasp, Stourbridge remain fifth in the table with games in hand.

Stourbridge 1 Frickley Athletic 1
THE Glassboys dictated the first half but fell behind on 24 minutes through Luke Hinsley but levelled through leading scorer Karl Hawley.

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